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NO. 8
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THE BADGER



Dear LARRY,:

% FIRST COMICS
1014 DAVIS
EVANSTON, IL
60201

O.K. Normally we print your letters in this space. But seeing as how we've got this nifty **Charles Truog** piece, I thought it might be nice to tell you a bit about the other Badger story that's supposed to come out this month.

Back in the days when Capital Publications published this title, **Mike Baron** and **Steve Englehart** thought it would be interesting to have The Badger appear in an issue of *Coyote* — not a walk-on, but a full-fledged crossover appearance. Steve went ahead and plotted the story, and Capital bit the dust (the two incidents appear to be unrelated).

When First Comics picked up the title, Steve dusted off his plot and called Mike — who promptly told Steve to call me. Well, to make a long and boring story short and sweet, we (acting as representative for Mike Baron) licensed

the right to use the Badger to Steve Englehart for the princely sum of \$1.00 and for appropriate copyright and trademark credits. Actually, it wasn't tough, and I have to credit Steve for coming up with the solution.

After doing the paperwork, I actually read the story and decided we all made a wise decision — the Coyote/Badger story was one of the best crossovers I had ever read.

Coyote #14, on sale from Marvel Comics later this month. You'll love it.

And next issue, **Mike Baron** and **Bill Reinhold** get back together for "Hot August Night" (well, it'll be out the beginning of September, but what the hell) with a couple of the most unexpected non-comics world guest stars you could possibly imagine!

See you in two months!

— Mike Gold

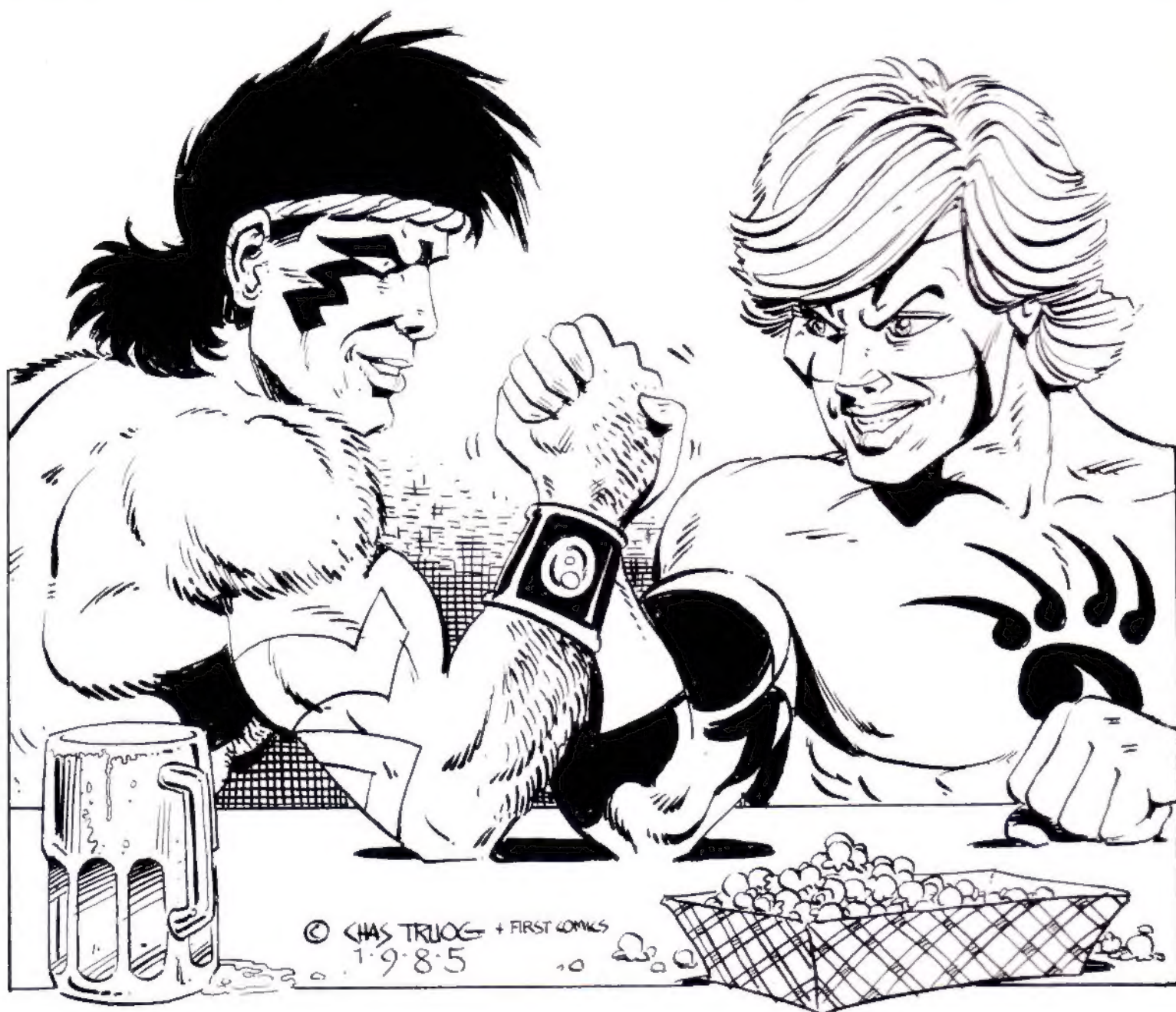
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THE BADGER* Vol. 1, No. 8, November, 1985.
Published by FIRST COMICS, INC., Mike Gold, President; Rick Obadiah, Secretary; Kenneth F. Levin and Ralph C. Muscant, Directors. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 1014 Davis Street, Evanston IL 60201. Published bi-monthly. Copyright ©1985 First Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. Price: \$1.75 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: \$21.00 in the U.S., \$23.00 in Canada, and \$40.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. The stories, incidents, and characters mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, without satiric content, are intended or should be inferred. The Badger and all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of First Comics, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at Evanston, Illinois, 60204. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *The Badger*, c/o First Comics, Inc., 1014 Davis Street, Evanston, IL 60201.

A FIRST COMICS
PUBLISHING PRODUCTION



BADGER™

NAKOMA STATE MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY LIES JUST OUTSIDE MADISON, WISCONSIN, ON THE BALMY SHORES OF LAKE NAKOMA. FOR TEN BUCKS, ORDERLY HENRY "HANK" DAGGETT WILL GIVE YOU THE GRAND TOUR.



HI! I'M HANK AND THE SUPERS AT A CONVENTION IN ST. LOUIS. WE'VE GOT THE WARD TO OURSELVES. SO COME ON! LET'S GET STARTED...

IN A COMA, IN NAKOMA!

WE GOT AX MURDERERS, NECROPHILIACS... WE EVEN HAVE A GENUINE **SUPERHERO!** ONLY, YOU GOTTA BE COOL. NO LOUD NOISES-- NO BAITING THE INMATES-- YOU LEAVE THAT TO OL' HANK.

SOME OF THESE DUDES ARE KIND OF **EXCITABLE**, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

LIKE, THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH YOU CAN DO WITH THORAZINE, PROLIXIN AND VALIUM... KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

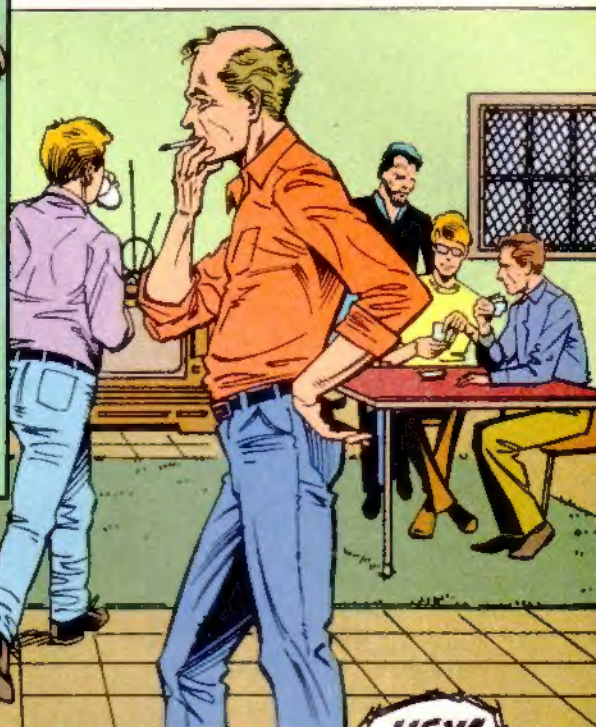
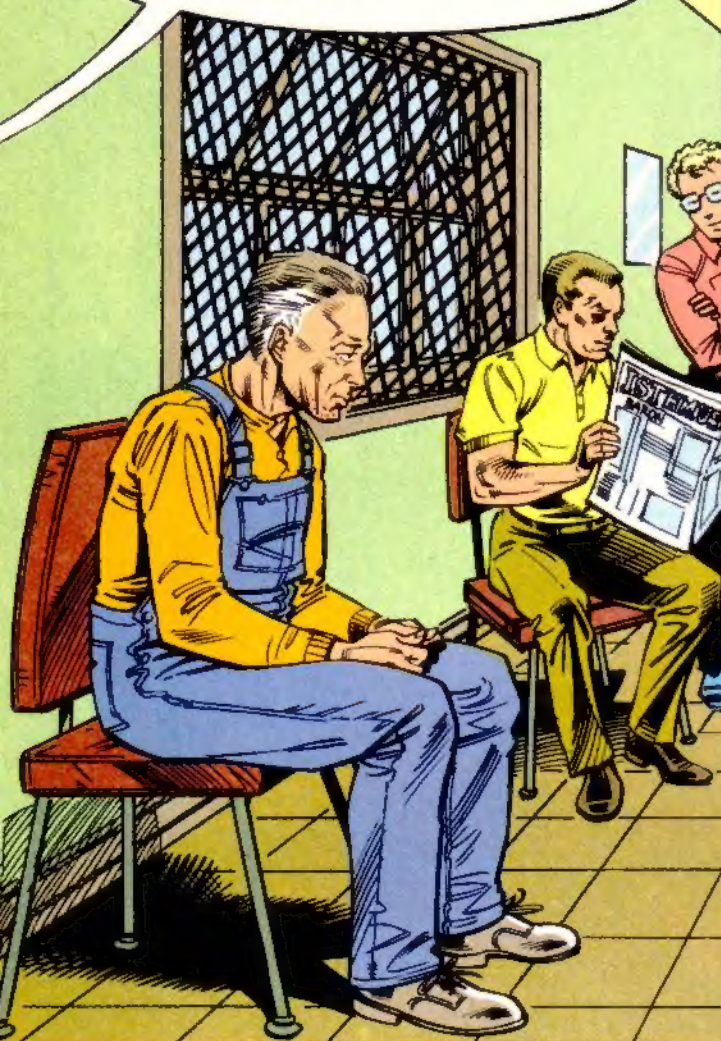
OKAY-- BE COOL NOW-- TAKE A LOOK AT THIS GUY-- FRED BEAN. USED TO BE OUR MOST FAMOUS GUEST 'TIL **THE BADGER** CAME ALONG. OLD FRED THERE, KILLED SIX WOMEN UP IN GRAIN. STRUNG 'EM UP, DRESSED 'EM OUT

OL' FRED, HE'S JUST AS QUIET AS YOU PLEASE. EVERY YEAR FRED FILES A PETITION WITH THE STATE BOARD. "LEMME OUT!" HE SAYS. "I'M CURED!" SURE FRED.

HI HANK!

HI FRED. JUST CHECKIN' IN. NOW TAKE THIS NEXT GUY...

HUBERT PISMO. HE'S THE AX MURDERER I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT. KILLED HIS WHOLE FAMILY. WIFE, ITTY BITTY KIDDIES, CAT, DOG... YOU ASK HUBIE, HIPPIES ON ACID DID IT.



HEY!

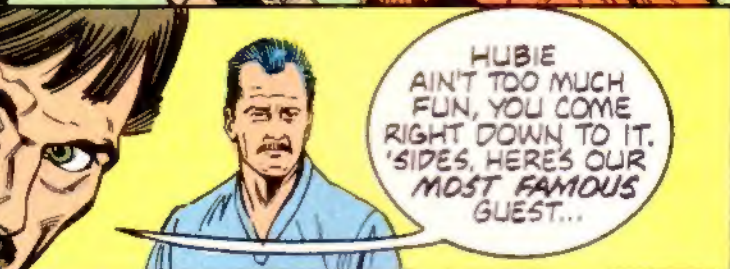
UH OH... COME ON...



I AIN'T NO FREAK, DAGGETT! I'M TELLING DR. BOR ABOUT THIS!



HUBIE AIN'T TOO MUCH FUN, YOU COME RIGHT DOWN TO IT. 'SIDES, HERE'S OUR MOST FAMOUS GUEST...



NORBERT SYKES! THE BADGER. USED TO BE THE TERROR OF THE TOWN! NOW LOOK AT HIM... RUTABAGA!

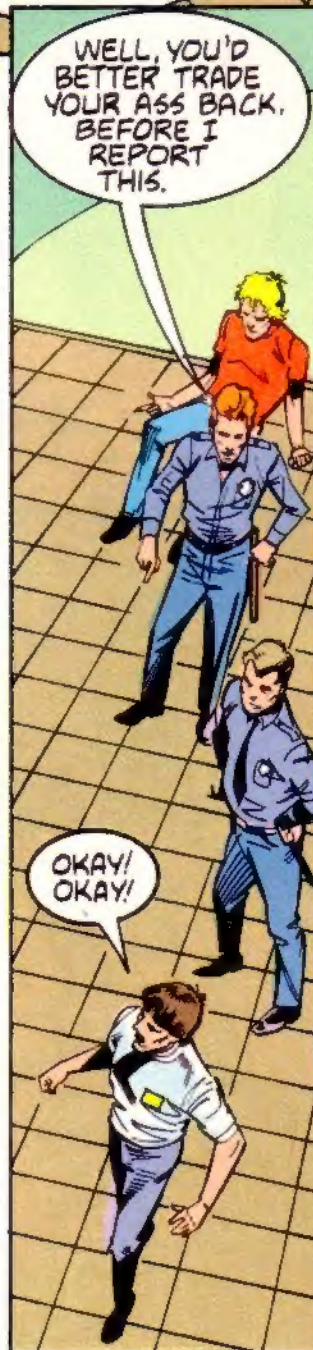


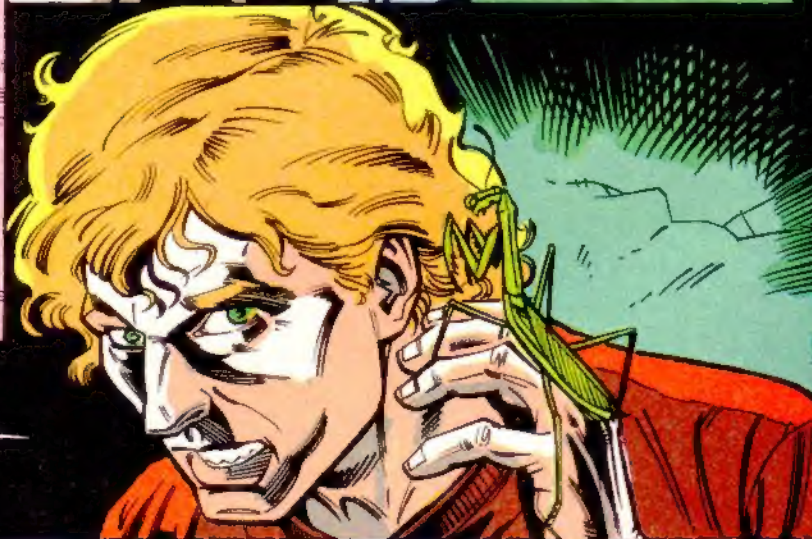
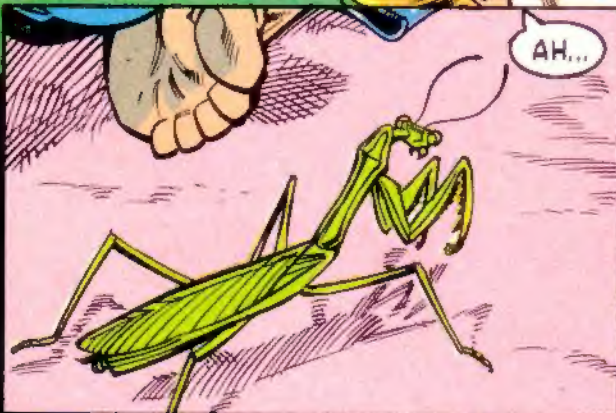
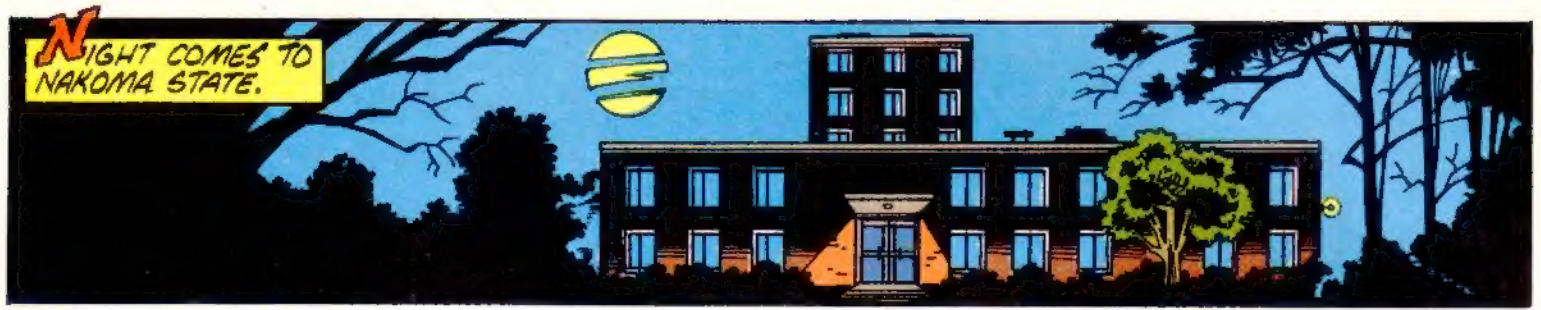
THE BADGER HASN'T MOVED A MAJOR MUSCLE IN A MONTH. HAD HIM ON IV FOR A WEEK OR HE WOULD HAVE CROAKED.

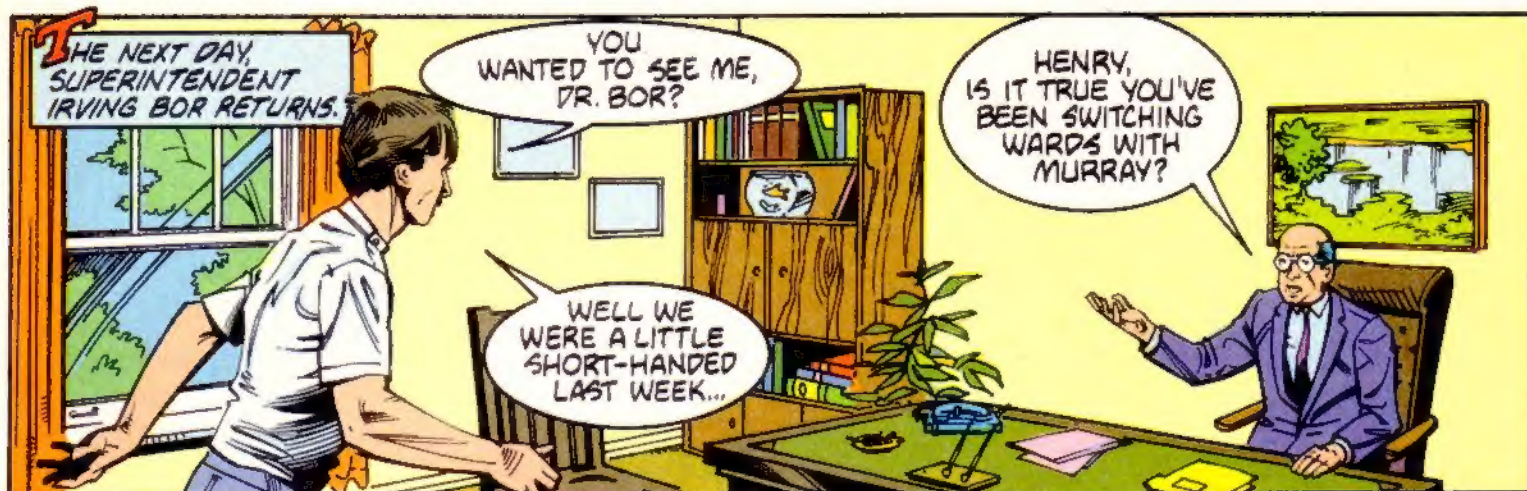


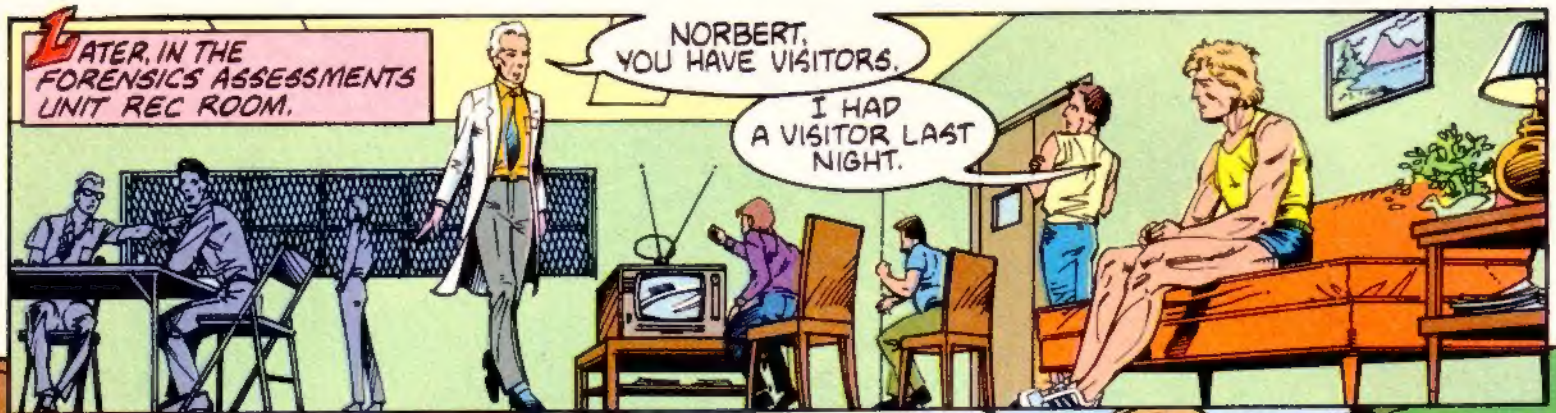












LATER, IN THE FORENSICS ASSESSMENTS UNIT REC ROOM.

NORBERT, YOU HAVE VISITORS.

I HAD A VISITOR LAST NIGHT.

NORBERT, THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE A RULING SOON.

BADGER, YOU DEFINITELY WANT TO BE RULED COMPETENT. WE CAN ALWAYS PLEA-BARGAIN, BUT IF THE COURT THINKS YOU'RE PSYCHO, YOU COULD BE IN FOR A LOOOONG VISIT.

I AM PSYCHO.

FORGET IT! PSYCHO OR NOT, YOU'RE BETTER OFF AT HOME.



I DREAMT I FOUGHT THE GOD OF DOGS. LATER, WE BECAME BUDDIES AND GOT DRUNK. IT WAS ALL A SILLY MISUNDERSTANDING.

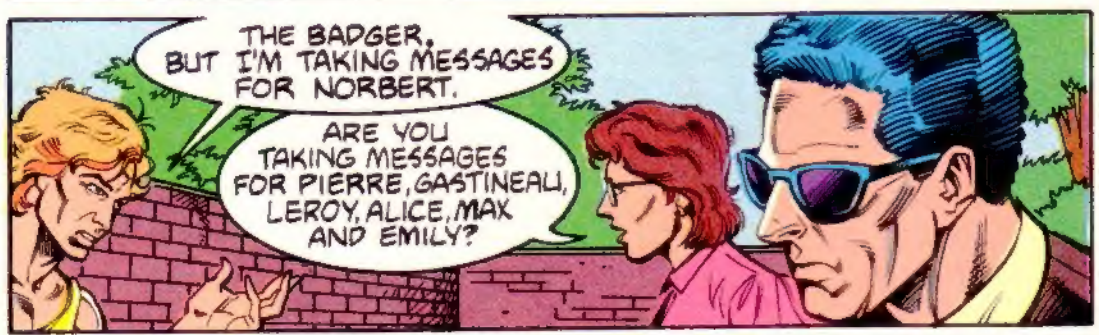
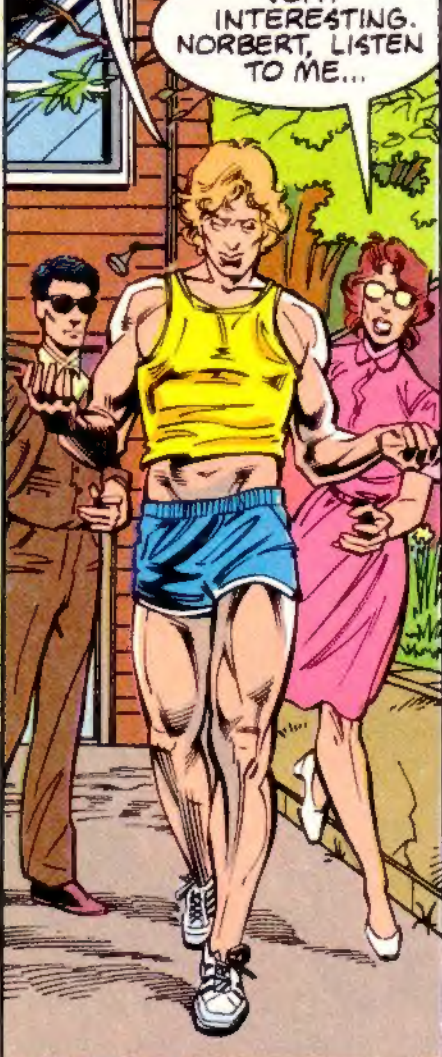


YOU'VE GOT TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

I AM TOGETHER.

NO YOU'RE NOT. WHO IS THIS I'M ADDRESSING? NORBERT OR THE BADGER?

VERY INTERESTING. NORBERT, LISTEN TO ME...



THE BADGER, BUT I'M TAKING MESSAGES FOR NORBERT.

ARE YOU TAKING MESSAGES FOR PIERRE, GASTINEAU, LEROY, ALICE, MAX AND EMILY?



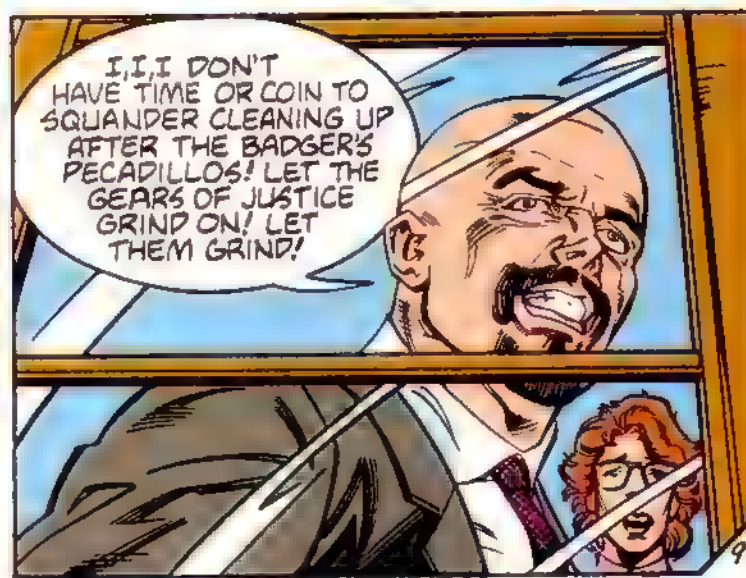
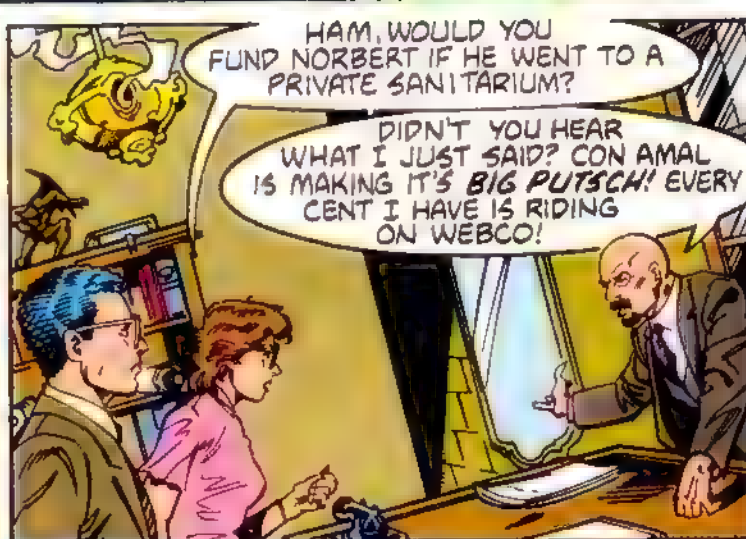
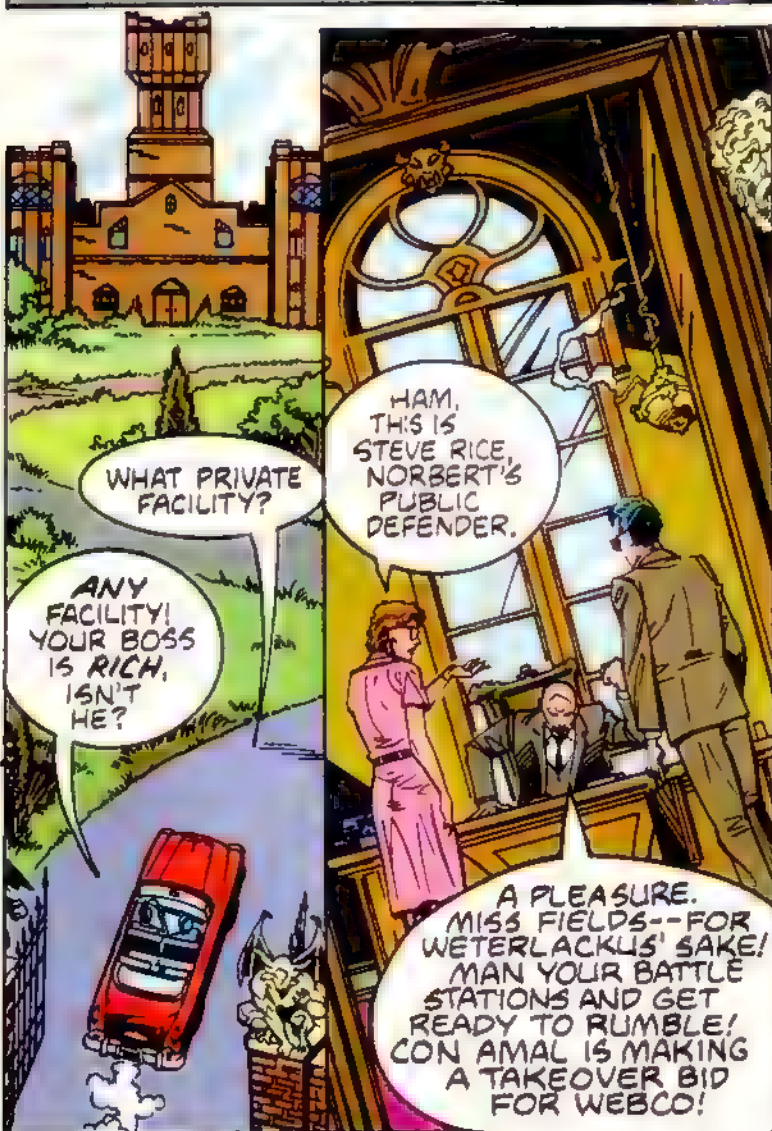
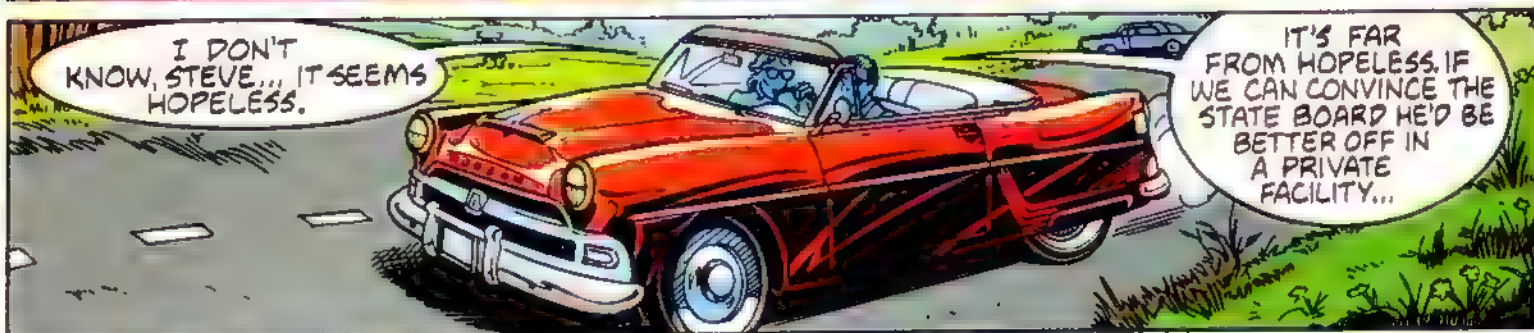
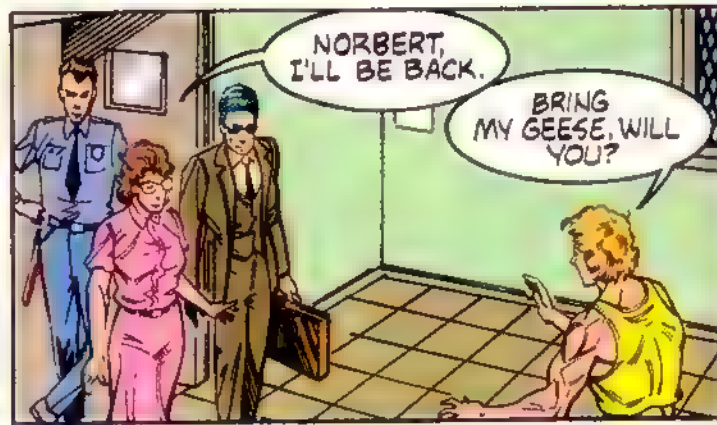
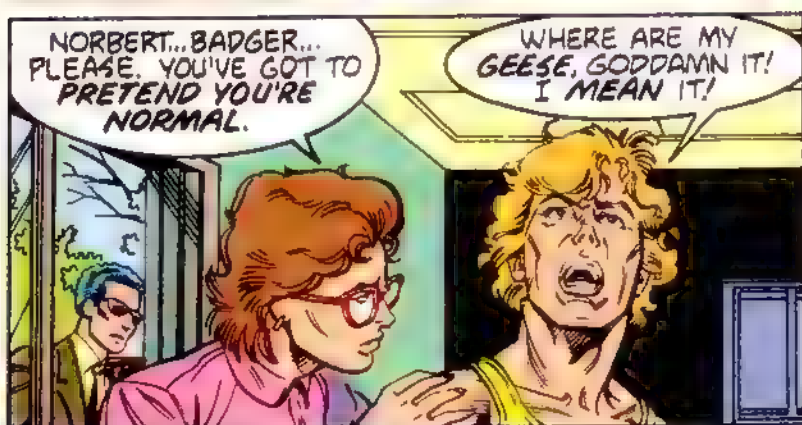
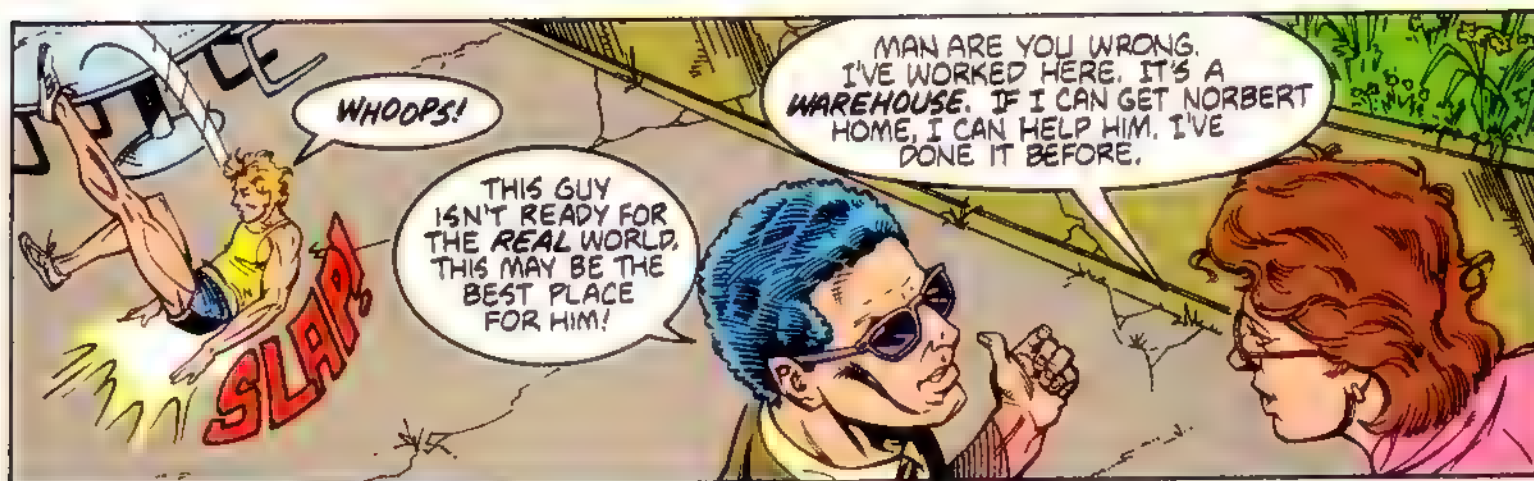
SURE, I'LL TAKE THEIR MESSAGES, TOO.

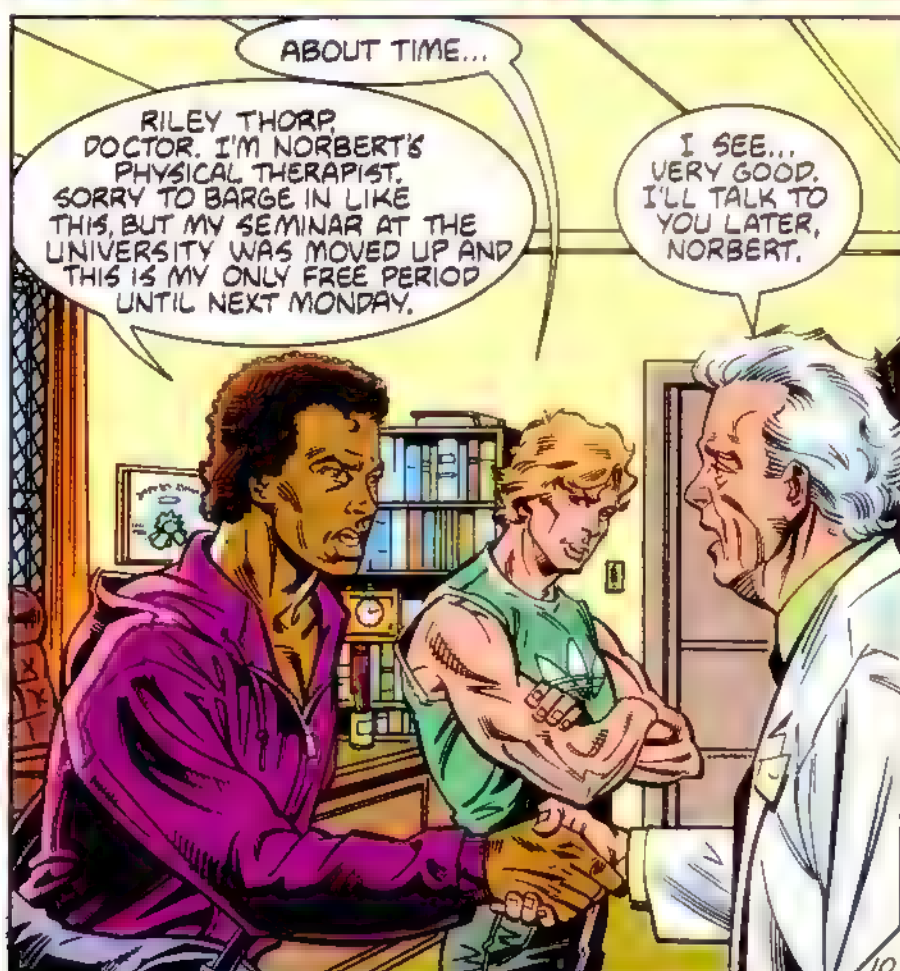
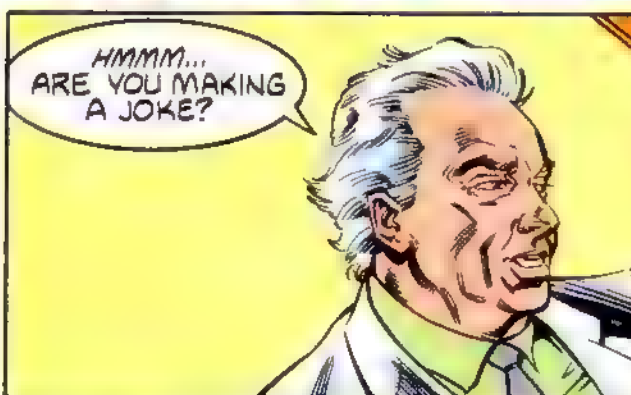
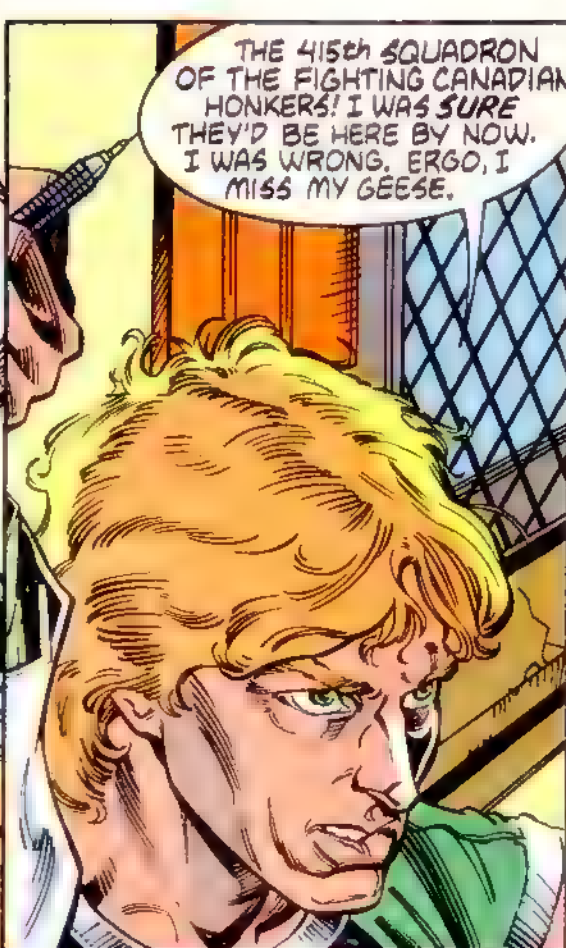
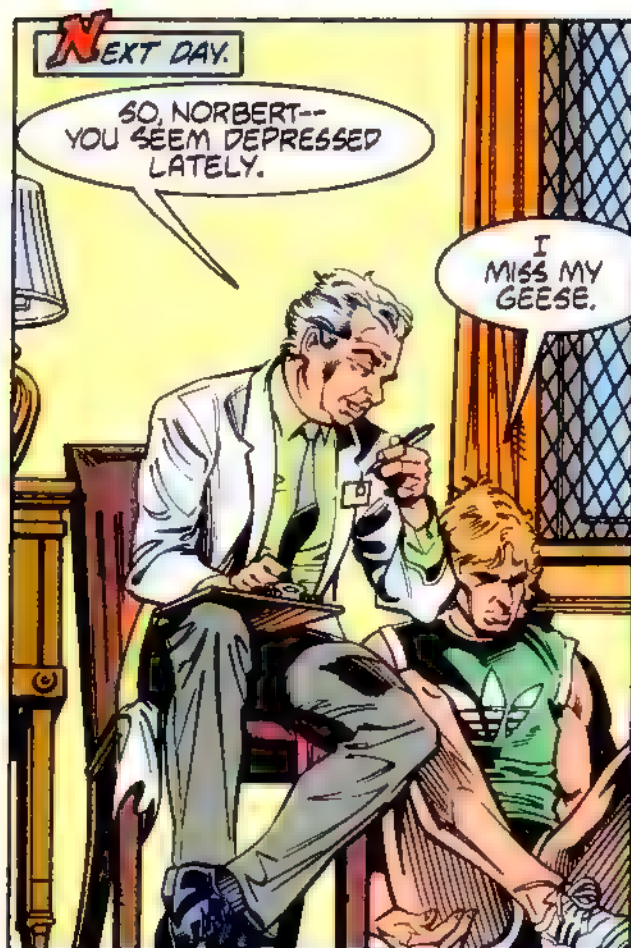
DAISY, COULD I SPEAK TO YOU?



ALL EXCEPT PIERRE! THAT BASTARD CAN LOOK OUT FOR HIMSELF!

DAISY, I'LL TRY LIKE HELL, TO GET THE BADGER OUT--IF HE'S FOUND COMPETENT...





THIS IS
A ROYAL PAIN,
HAVING TO CHECK
IN AND OUT OF THE
CASHEW BOX TO
JUST TO GET A
WORKOUT.

TEACHERS THERE
IN SCHOOL--
THEY FLUNKED ME
BY THE RULE--
THEY SAY I HAD NO
MOTIVATION,
BRAINS OR
DEDICATION--

NOT MUCH
FUN BEING HERE,
MAN.

YEAH? SO
WHY DON'T YOU
CLEAN UP YOUR
ACT? THEY'LL
LET YOU
OUT?

WHAT
ACT?

THE 28
CHANNEL
PERSONALITY
VIA CABLE
ACCESS.

I AM
THE BADGER--
EVERYTHING ELSE
IS JUST AN
ILLUSION.

I KNOW YOU ARE
MAN. UNFORTUNATELY,
STATE AIN'T ABOUT
TO LET NO BADGER
OUT OF THE BAG.
ONLY NORBERT
SYKES.

WE'LL SEE
ABOUT THAT.
DID YOU BRING
MY SWORDS?

HELL, NO! THEY
GOT A METAL DETECTOR
AT THE FRONT DOOR.
WHAT YOU WANT
THEM FOR?

HAD A
VISITOR THE OTHER
NIGHT-- TOLD ME TO
GET READY FOR
AN AWFUL
FIGHT.

SWORDS?!
YOU USE THOSE
ON SOMEBODY THEY'LL
LOCK YOU UP AND
THROW AWAY
THE KEY.

NOT IF
IT'S NOT A
PERSON.

YES, I APOLOGIZE
FOR THE HOUR, BUT I HAD
TO SPEAK WITH YOU BEFORE
THE MARKET OPENED
IN BELGIUM...

BUT SIGNOR ALLIOT,
I BESEECH YOU--THIS
TAKEOVER BID IS BAD FOR
EVERYONE--! I'M
ONLY ASKING...

WILL YOU
DO ME ONE FAVOR?
WILL YOU CHECK WITH
ME BEFORE YOU
SELL?

PUS.LLANIMOUS
DWARVES!

HAM--

NOW
WHAT?

HAMMAGLYSTWYTH...

SHOW
YOURSELF,
MENDICANT!
I'M A BUSY
MAN!

IN THE
COURTYARD..

HURRY UP!
MAKE YOUR PITCH!
I ALREADY HAVE INSURANCE,
GIRL SCOUT COOKIES, AND AN
18 PIECE HEX WRENCH SET.
WELL?! SHOW
YOURSELF!

WOULD
HAMMAGLYSTWYTH
PREFER THE
LIGHT?

NO! NO!
PUT IT
OUT!

IS MY SLAUGHTER
NOT PLEASING TO YOU?
IT PLEASED LORD WETERLACKUS!
YOU DIDST CRAVE A SOON
FROM HIM AND WHEN THE
SACRIFICE WAS DUE, YOU
OFFERED BUT THE
BLOOD OF BRUTES...

MY LORD
WETERLACKUS BID
ME SHOW YOU NIGHTLY
HOW A PROPER SACRIFICE
IS MADE...



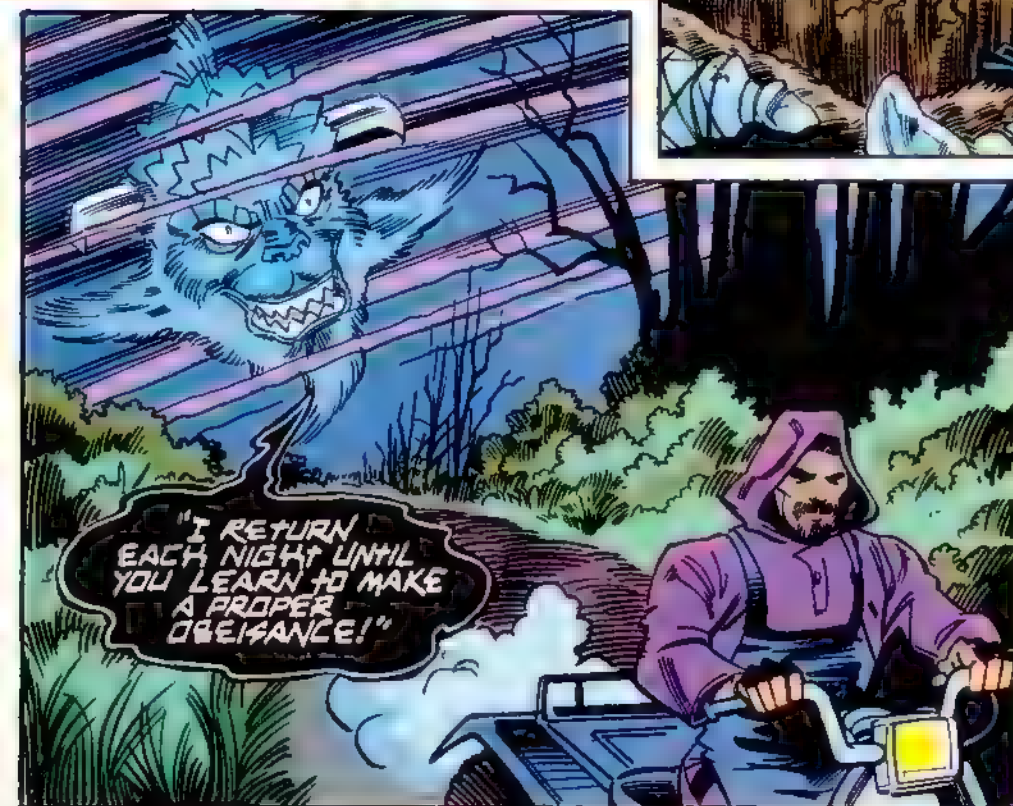
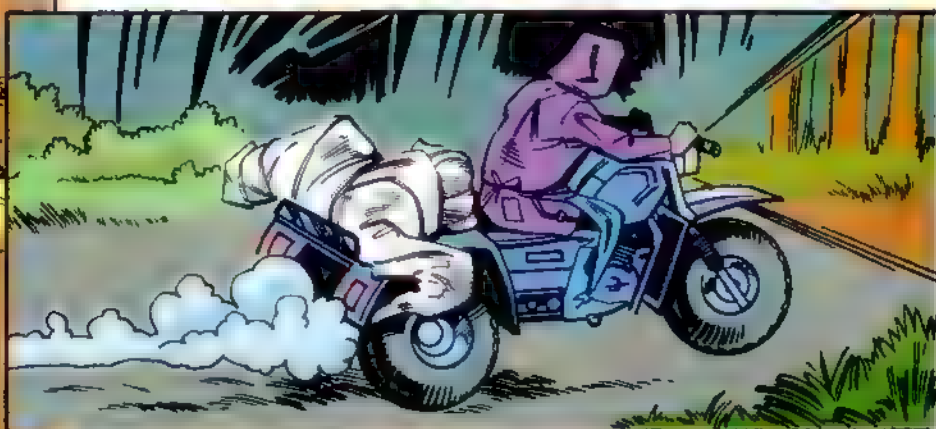
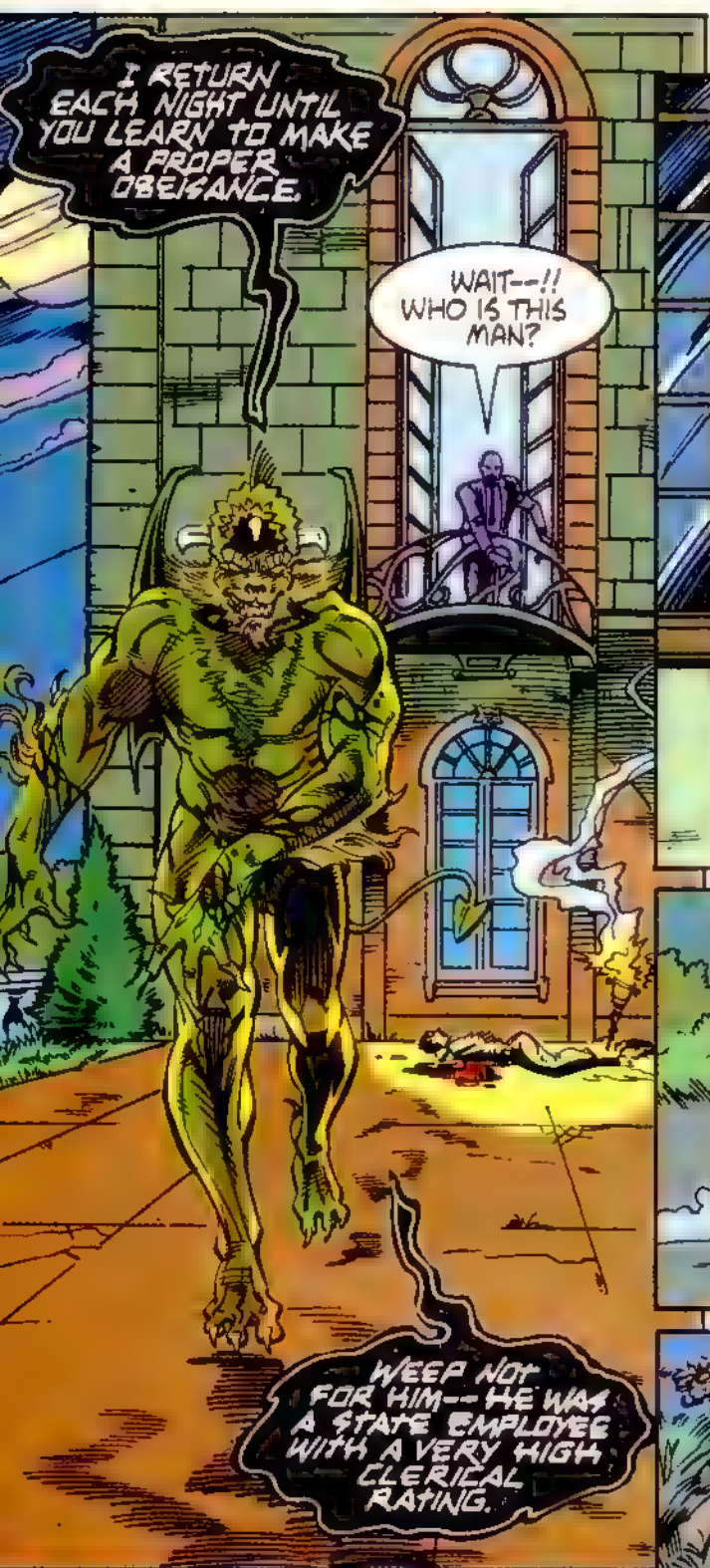
DOUSE THE LIGHT!
'T WAS TH'S VERY BEHAVIOR
CAUSED THE WELSH TO DRIVE
ME OUT, 1500 YEARS AGO!
I'LL NOT BE DRIVEN
OUT AGAIN!

I SAY
NOT DEMON!

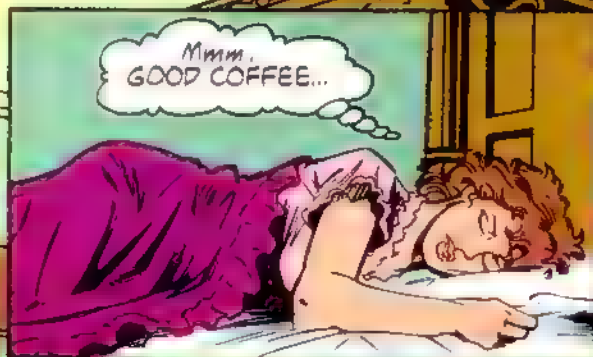
WATERLACKUS!

YOU CANNOT
HARM ME WHILE
I DO WETERLACKUS'
BIDDING...

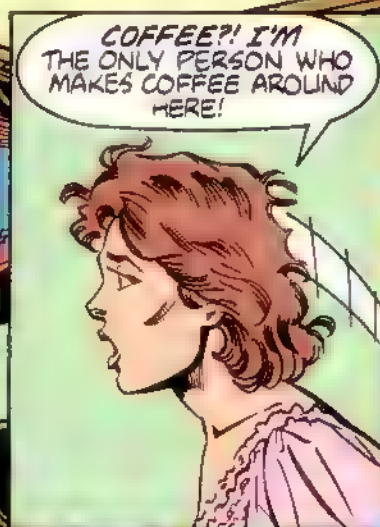




MORNING.



Mmm.
GOOD COFFEE...



COFFEE?! I'M
THE ONLY PERSON WHO
MAKES COFFEE AROUND
HERE!



INDEED,
MADAM? I ASSURE
YOU THIS IS OF THE WHOLE
BEAN, RISE AND SHINE,
MADAM! TIMES-
A-WASTING!

WHAT
ABOUT NORBERT?

IT IS
PRECISELY
THE BADGER
OF WHOM I
WISH TO
SPEAK...



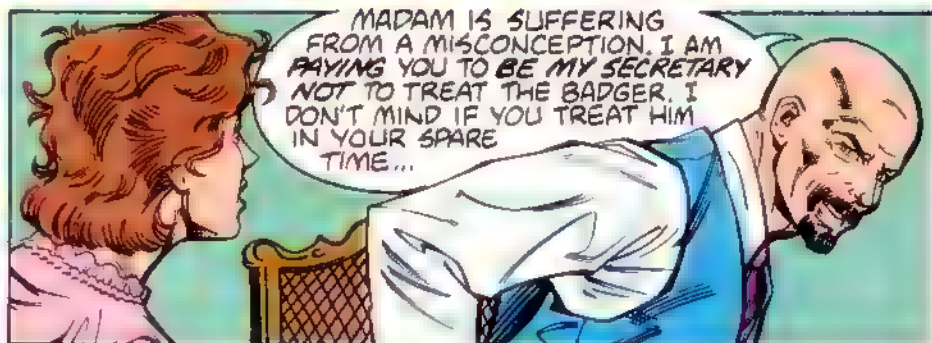
I REGRET
MY CURTNESS THE
OTHER NIGHT. HOW
CAN I FACILITATE
THE BADGER'S
RELEASE?

WILL
YOU SUPPORT
A STAY AT
A PRIVATE
SANITARIUM?

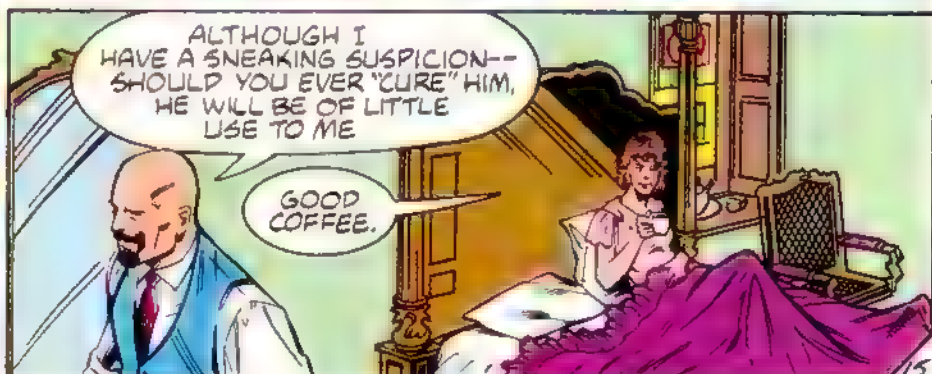


CERTAINLY, COST
IS NO OBJECT, ALTHOUGH
YOUR ATTENTION TO
CERTAIN BUSINESS
MATTERS WOULD NOT
BE UNWELCOME...

HAM, WHY DON'T
YOU HIRE A REGULAR
BUSINESS SECRETARY?
THEN I COULD GIVE
MY FULL ATTENTION
TO NORBERT.

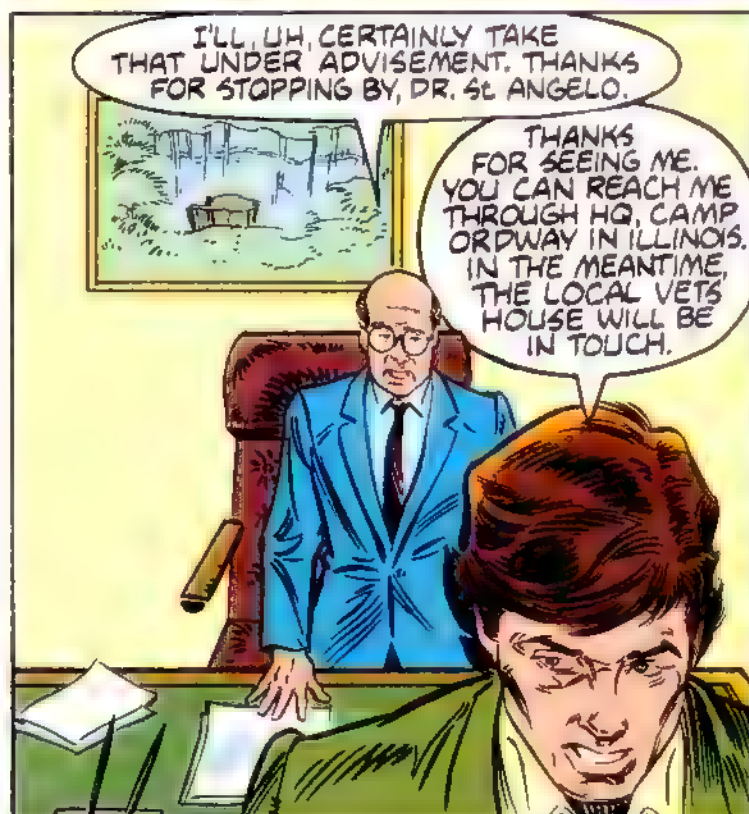
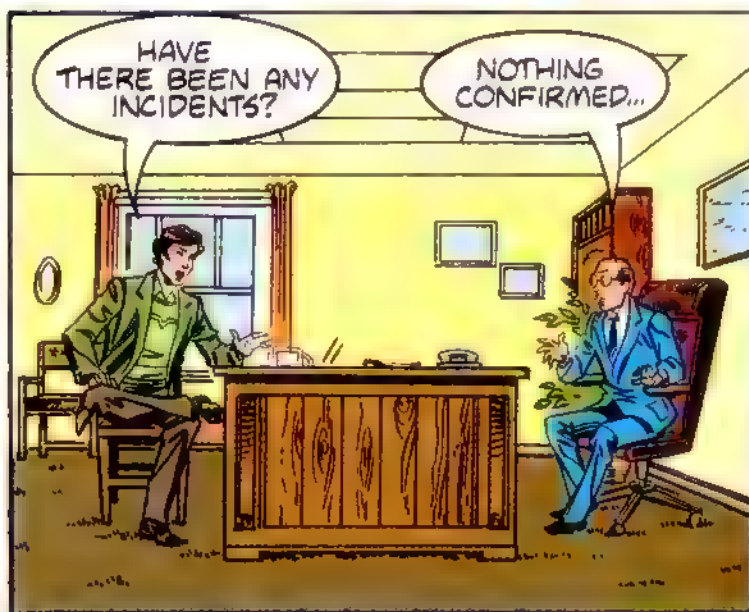
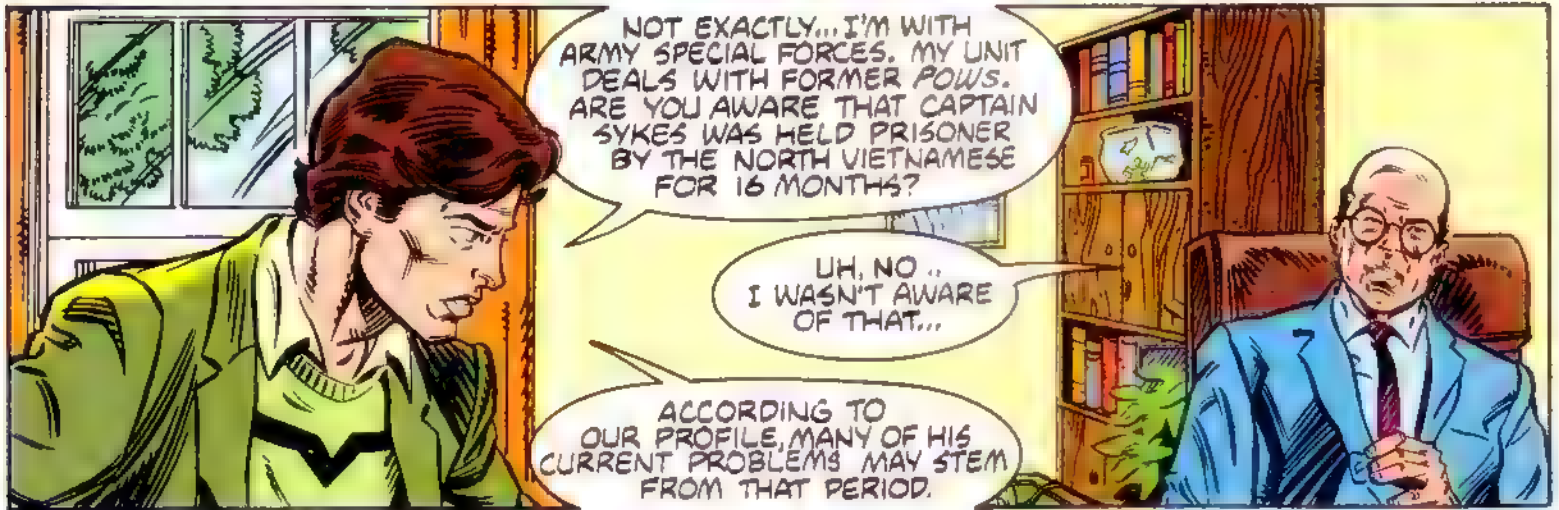
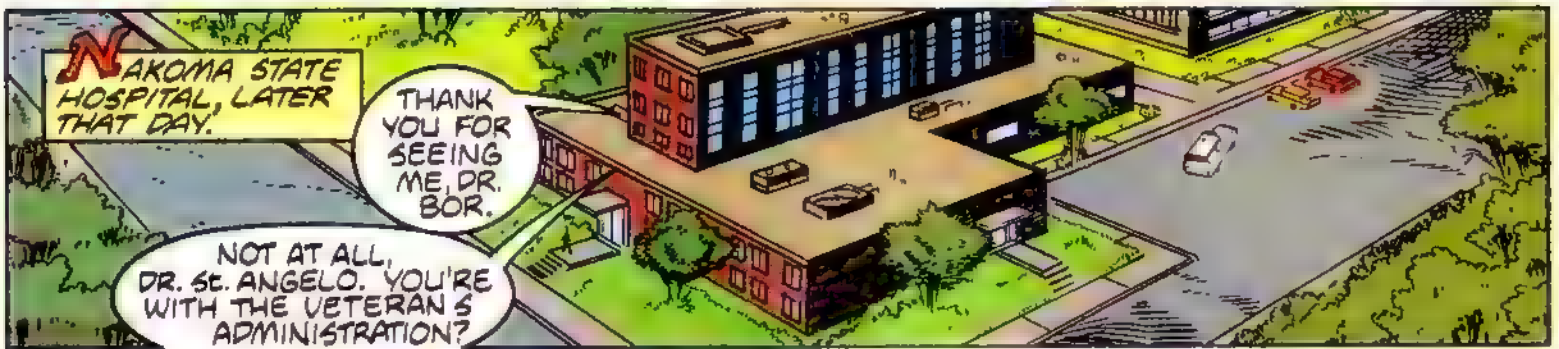


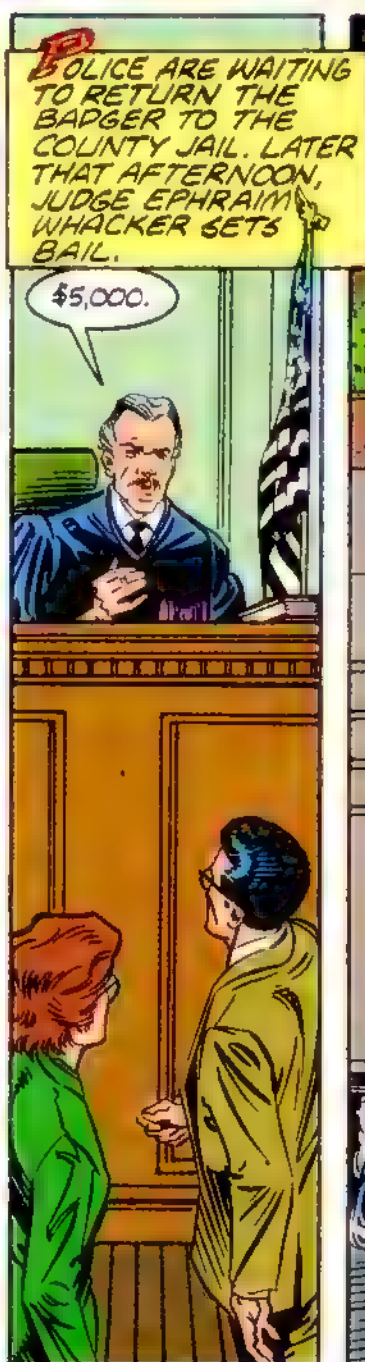
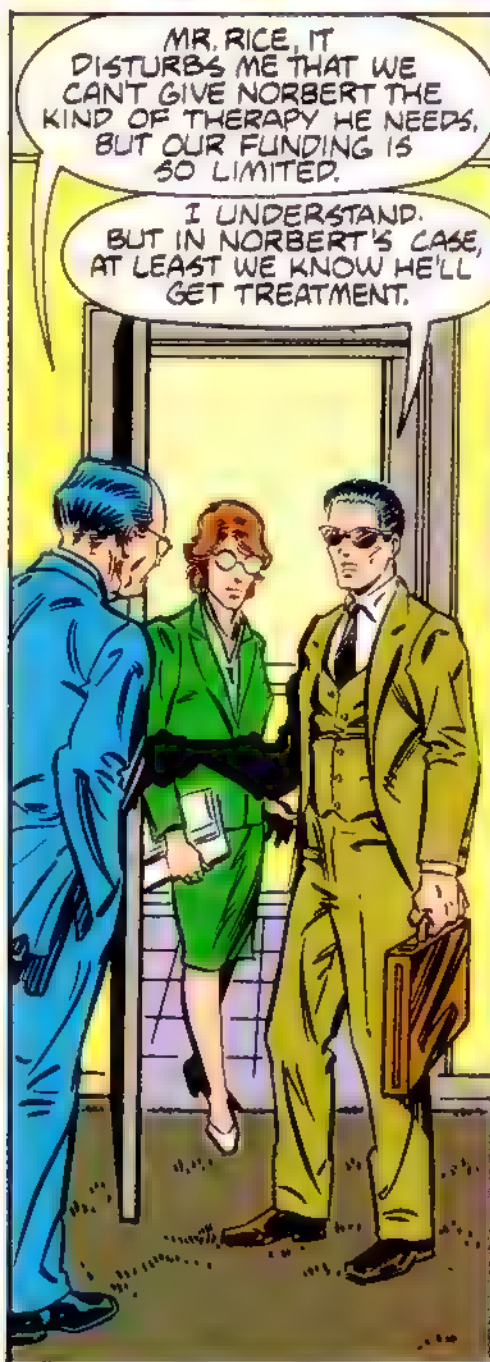
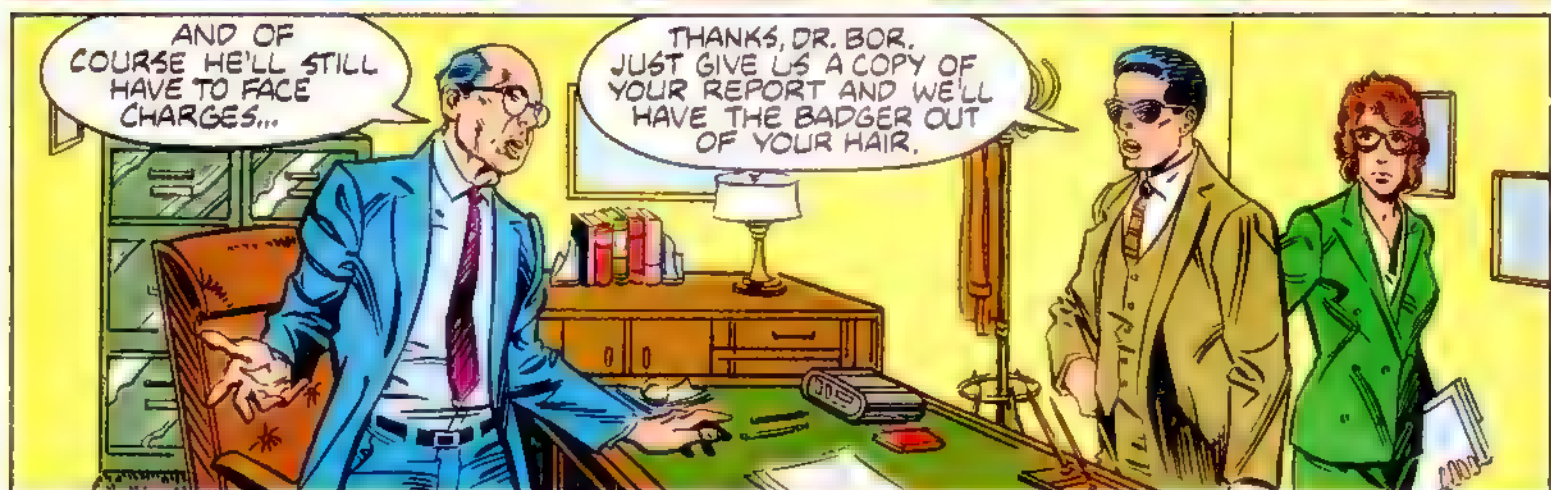
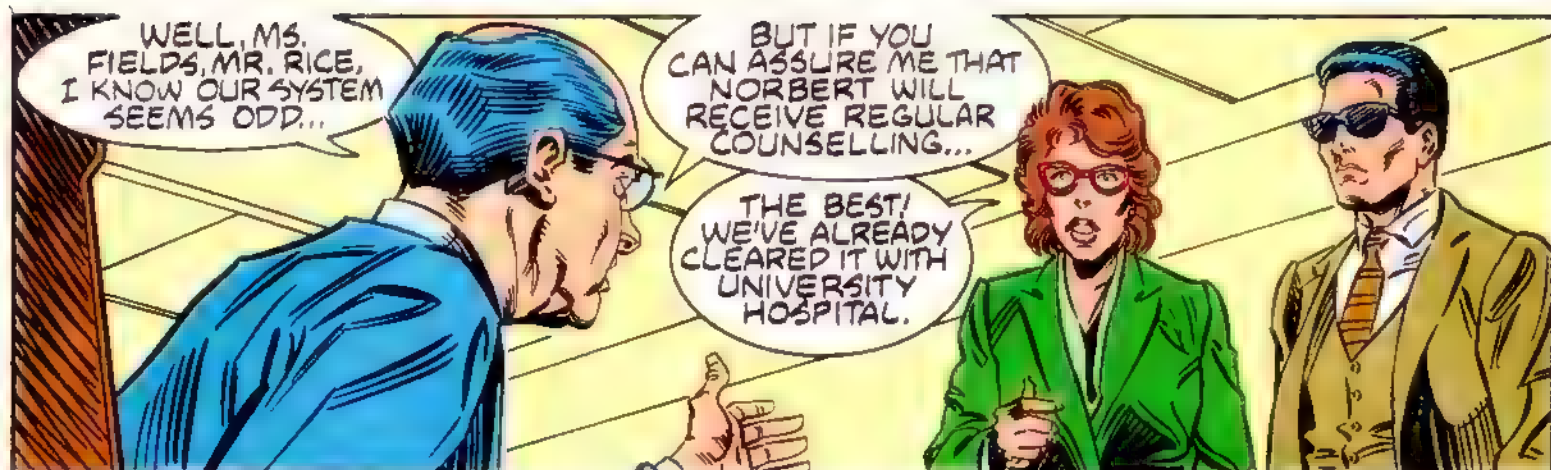
MADAM IS SUFFERING
FROM A MISCONCEPTION. I AM
PAYING YOU TO BE MY SECRETARY
NOT TO TREAT THE BADGER. I
DON'T MIND IF YOU TREAT HIM
IN YOUR SPARE
TIME...

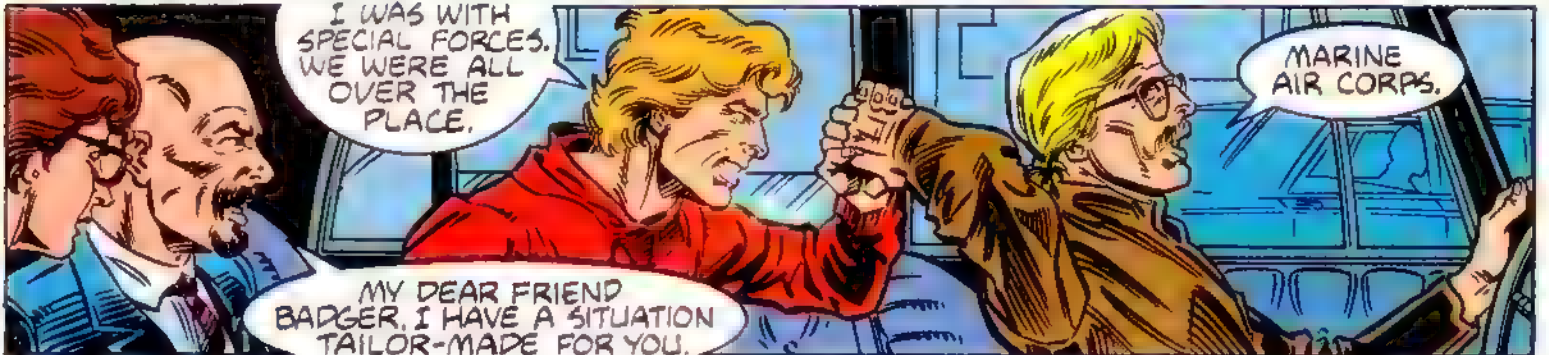
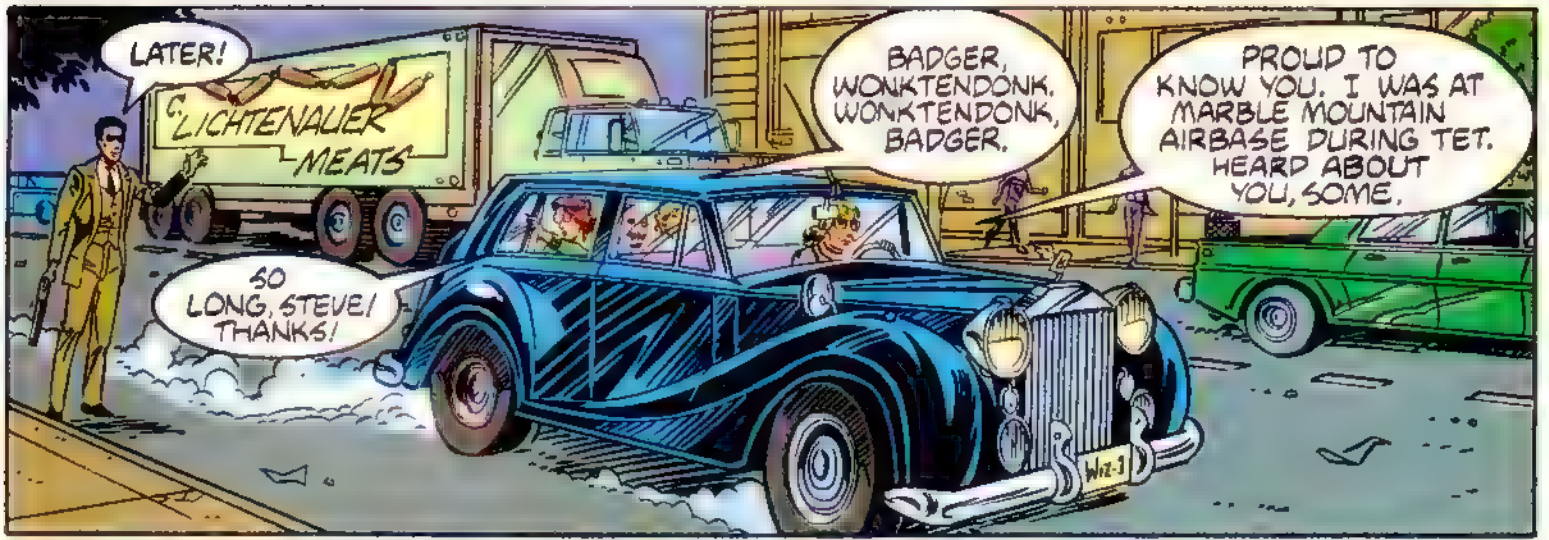


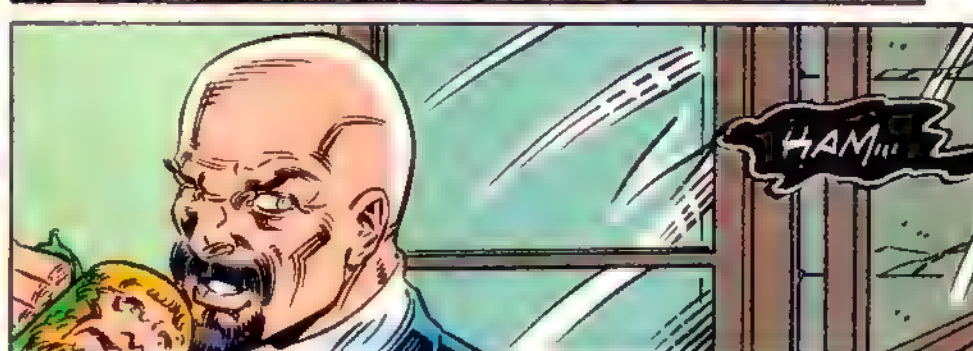
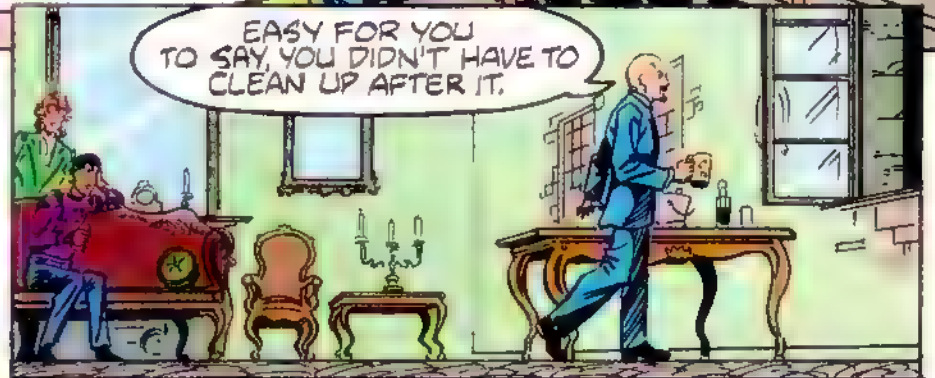
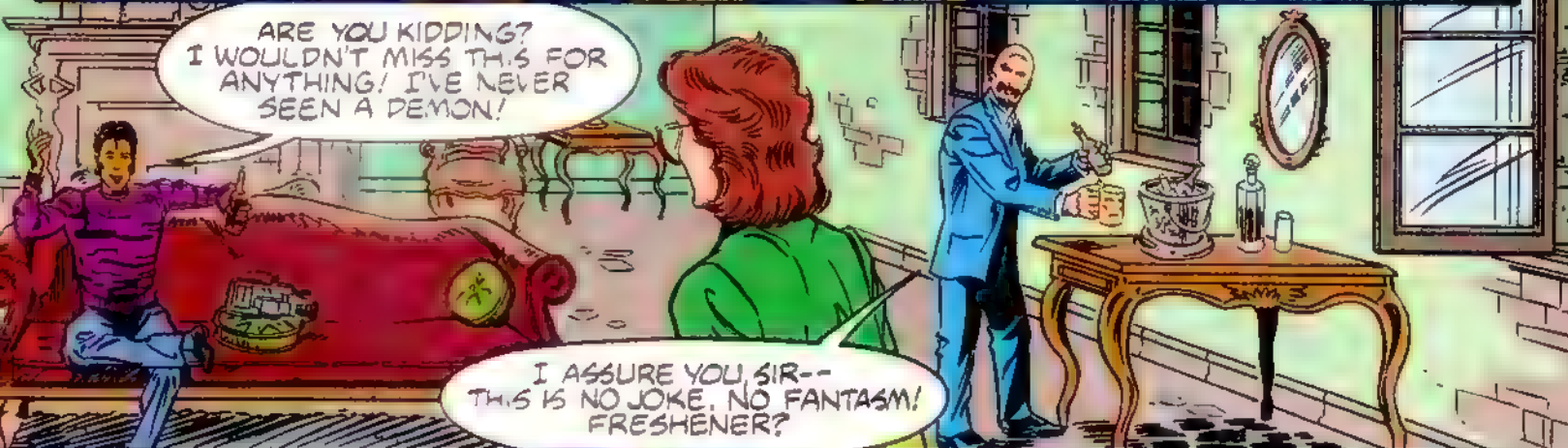
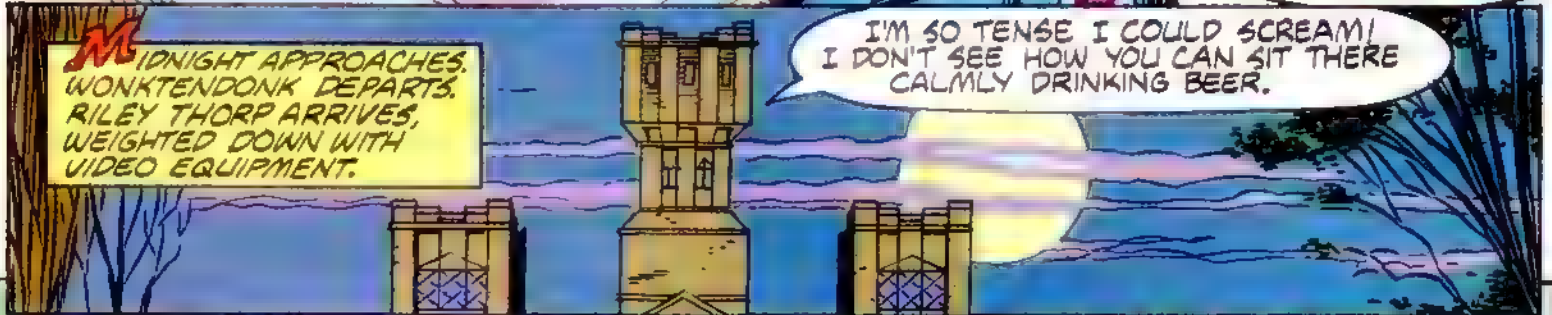
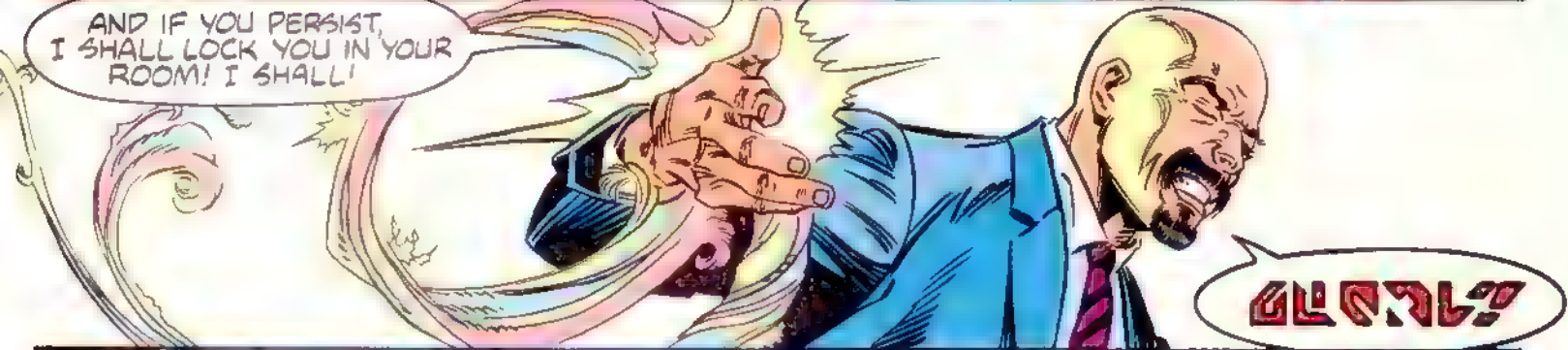
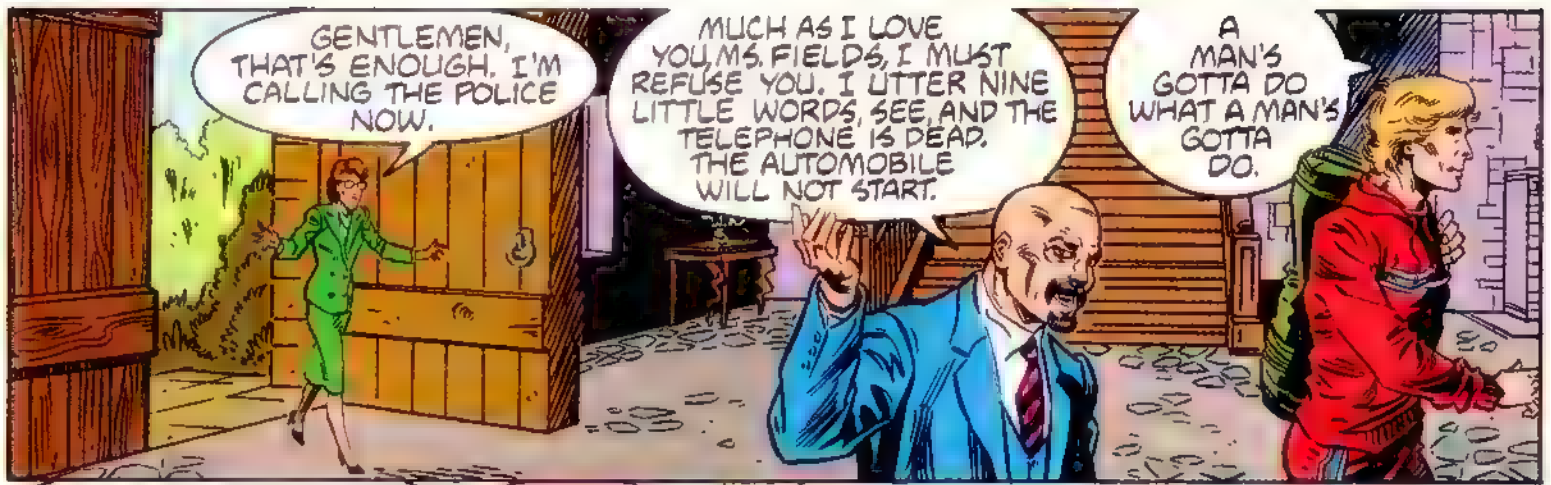
ALTHOUGH I
HAVE A SNEAKING SUSPICION--
SHOULD YOU EVER "CURE" HIM,
HE WILL BE OF LITTLE
USE TO ME

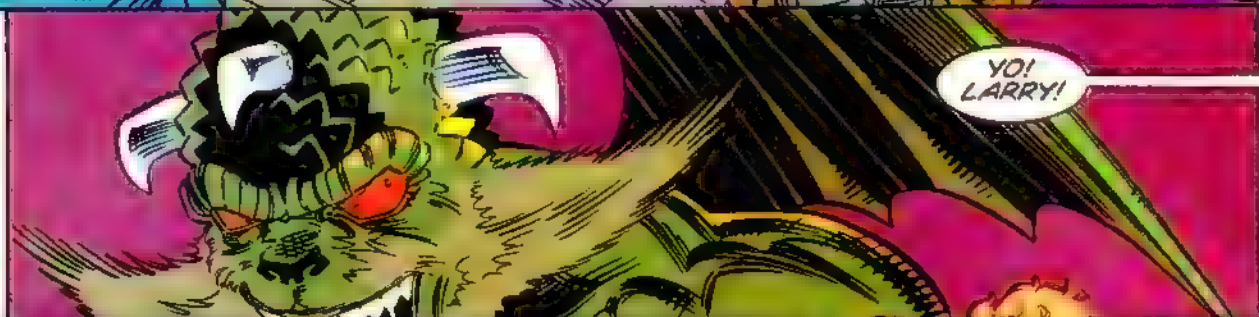
GOOD
COFFEE.

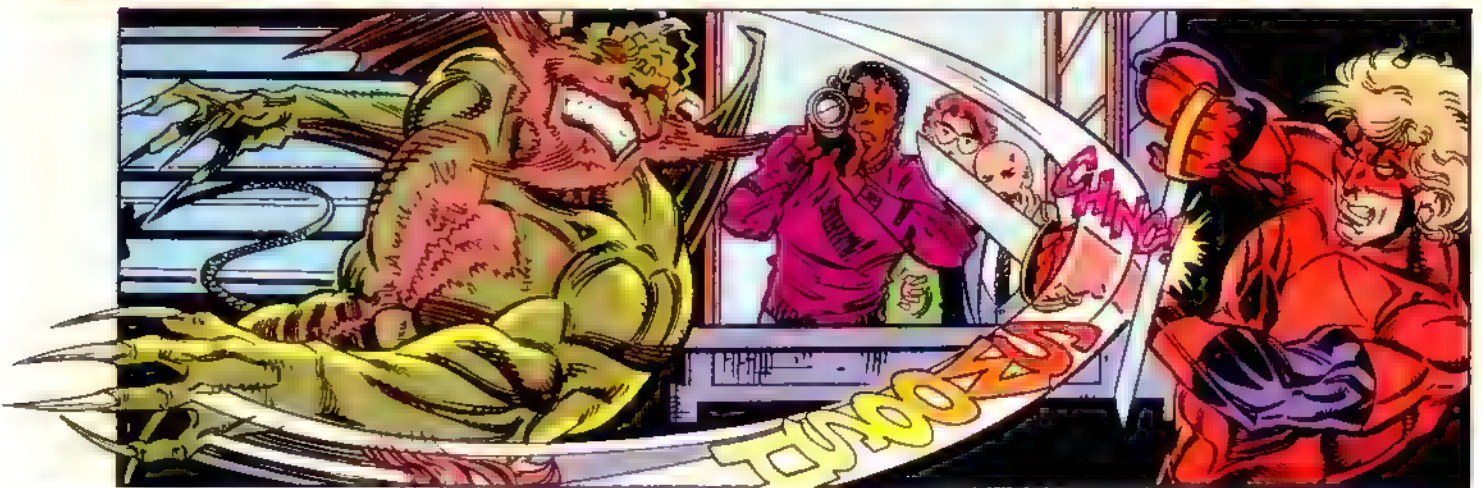
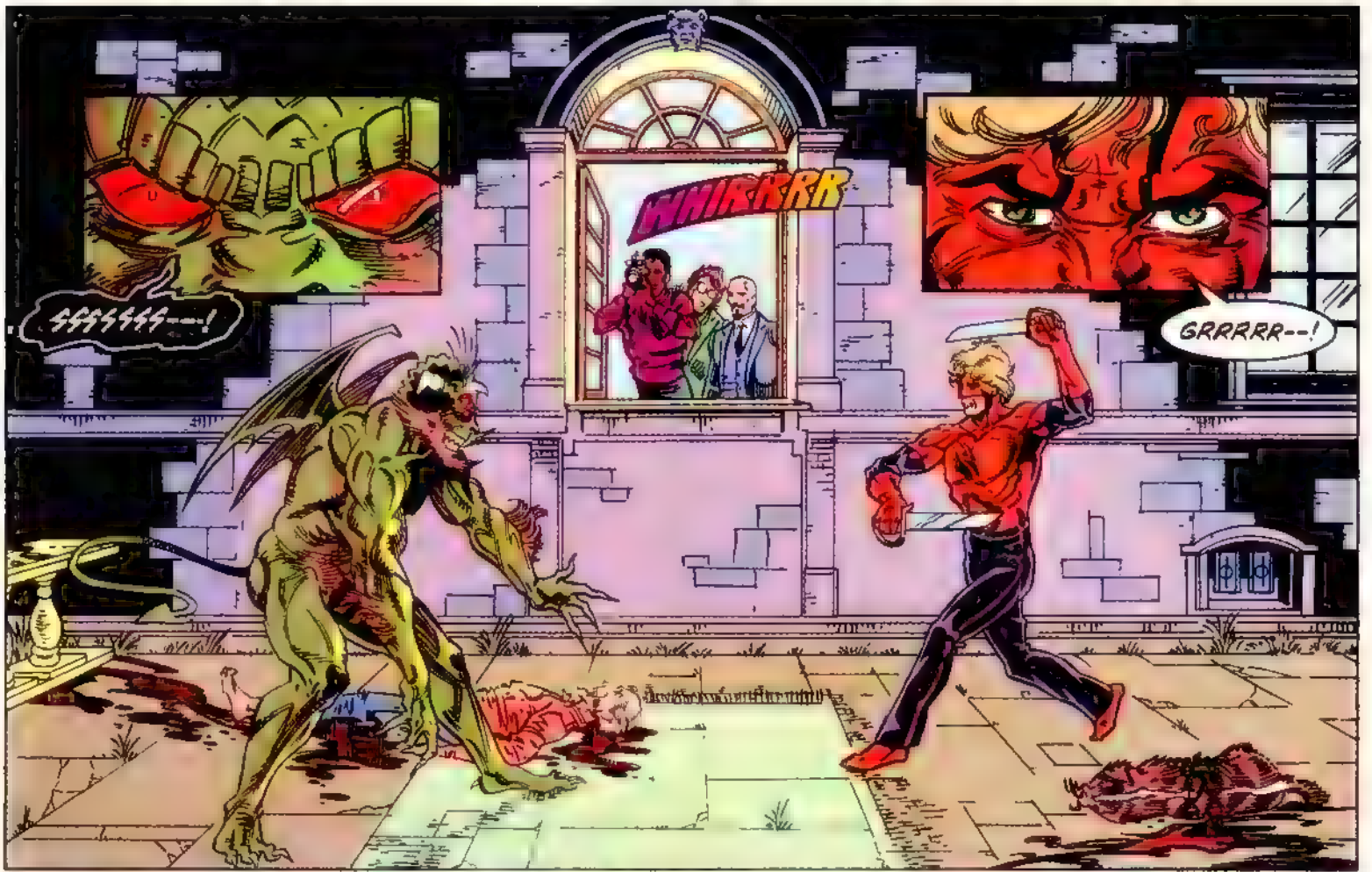


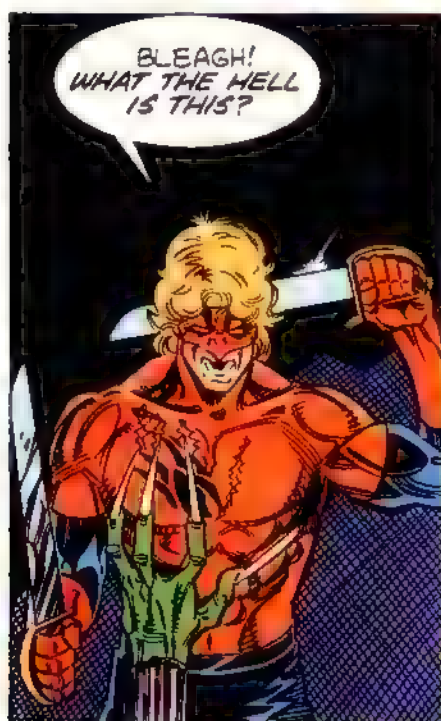
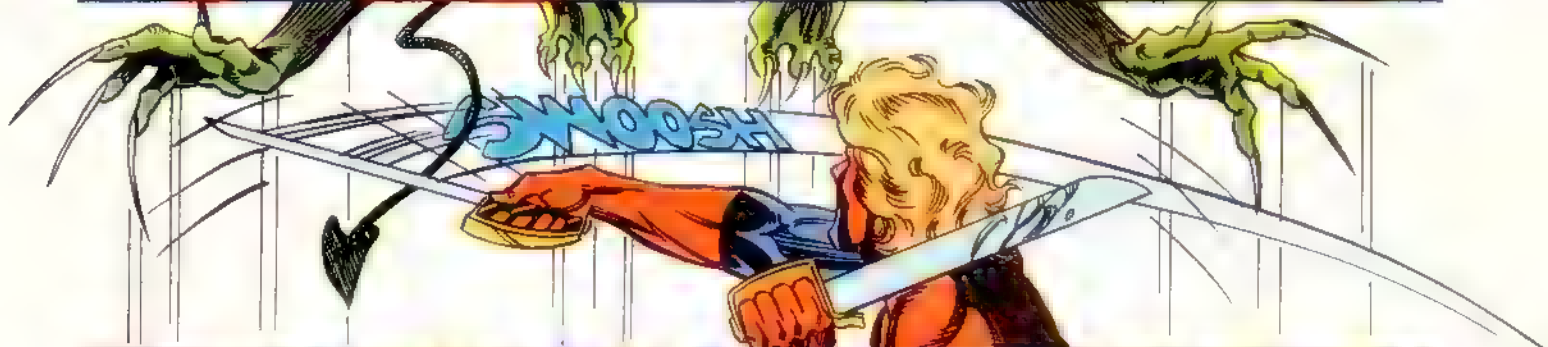
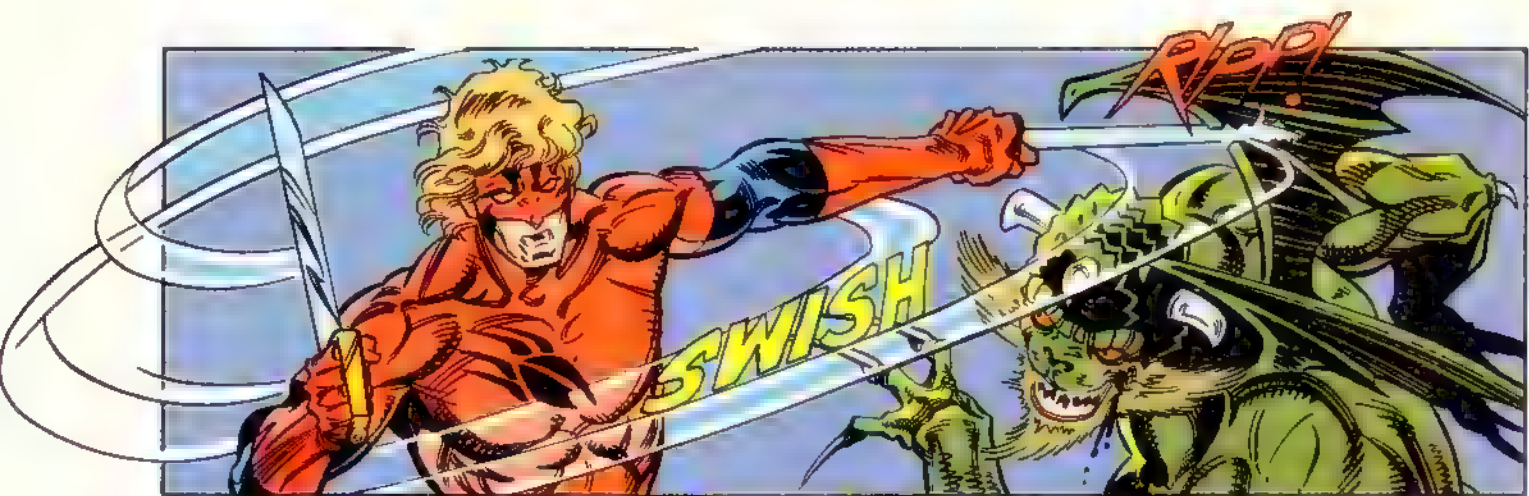






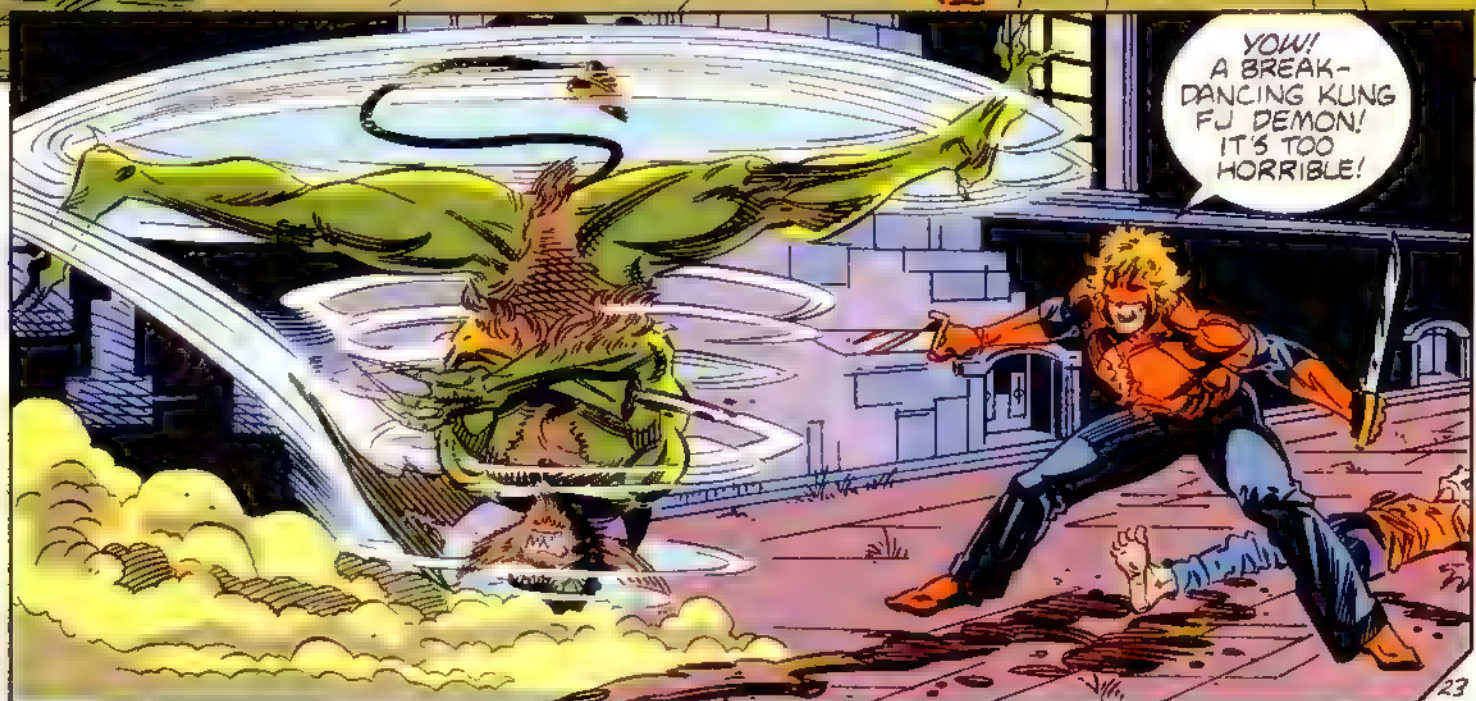
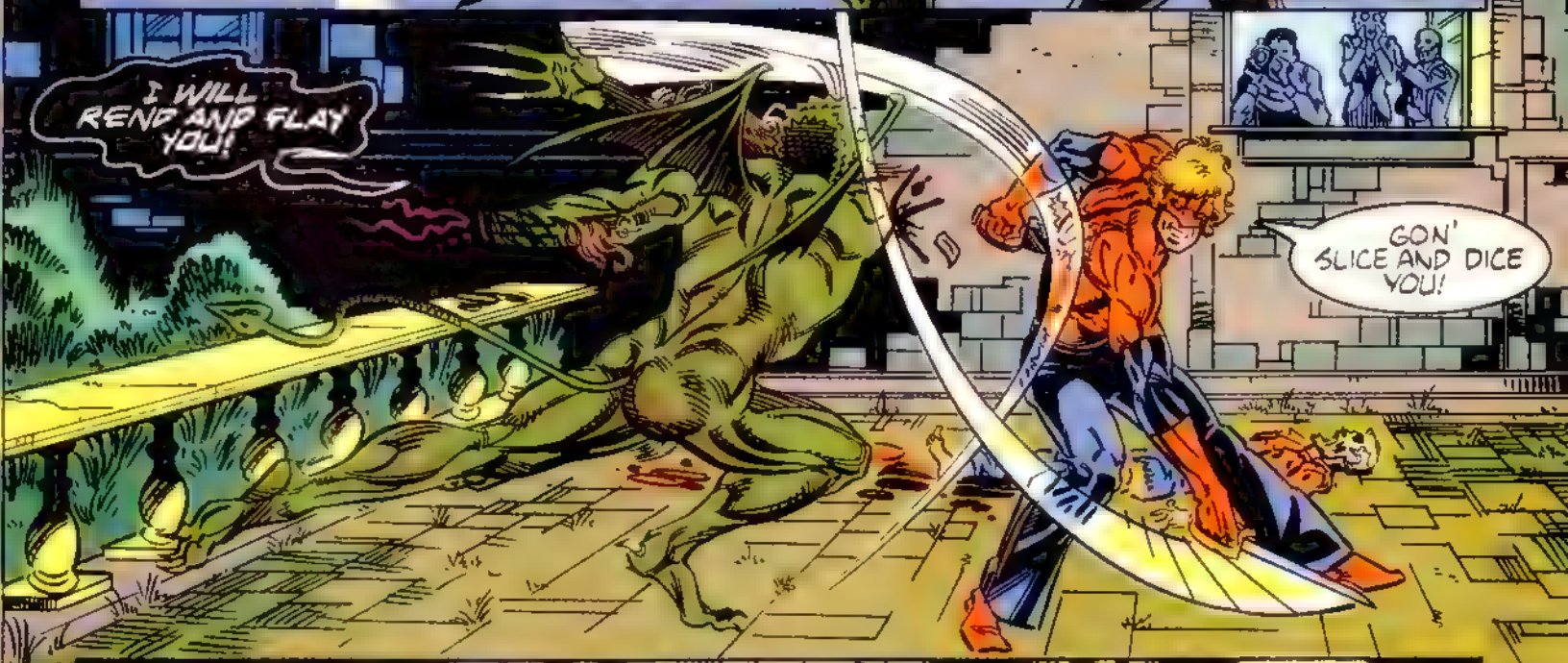


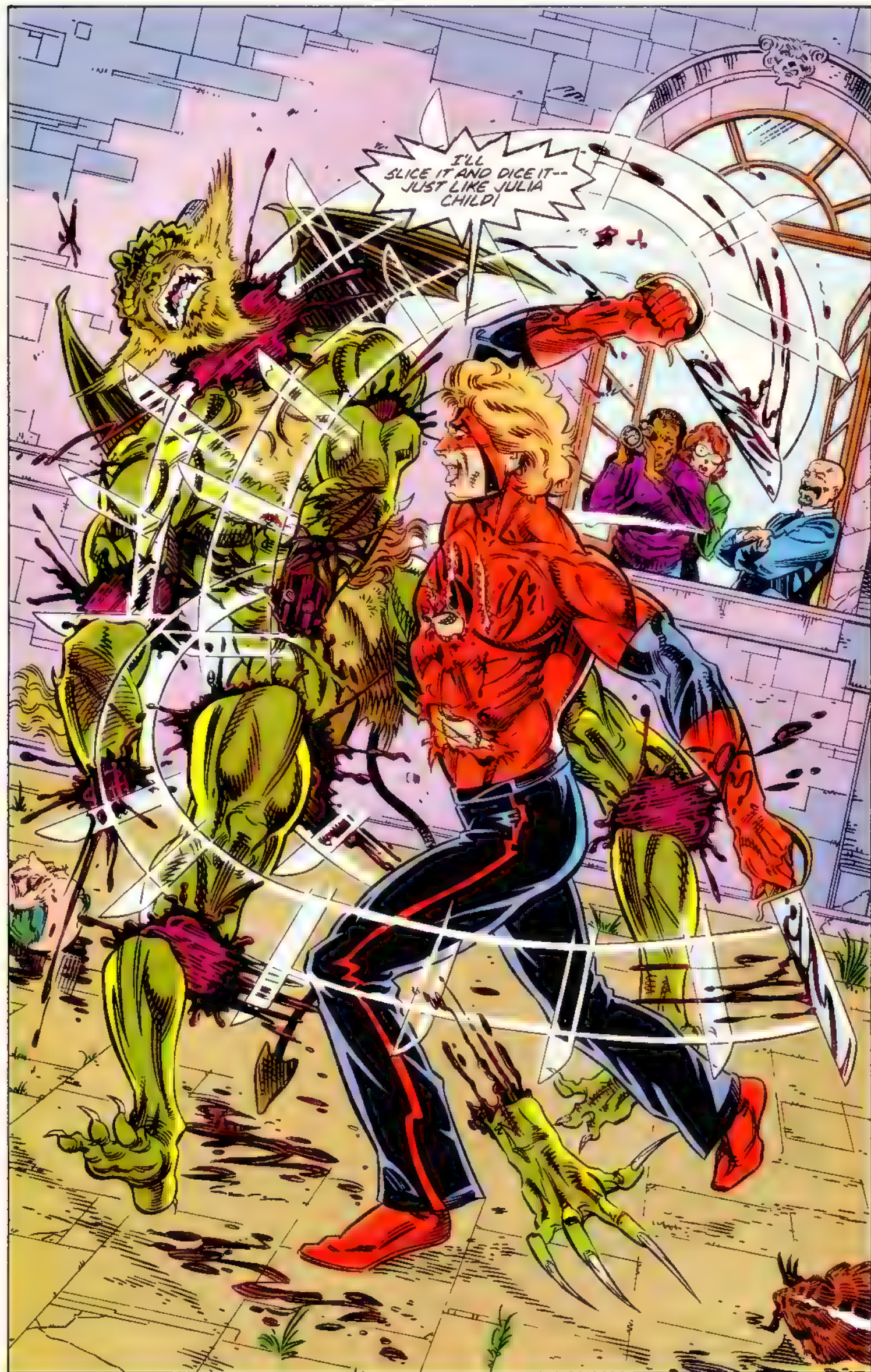


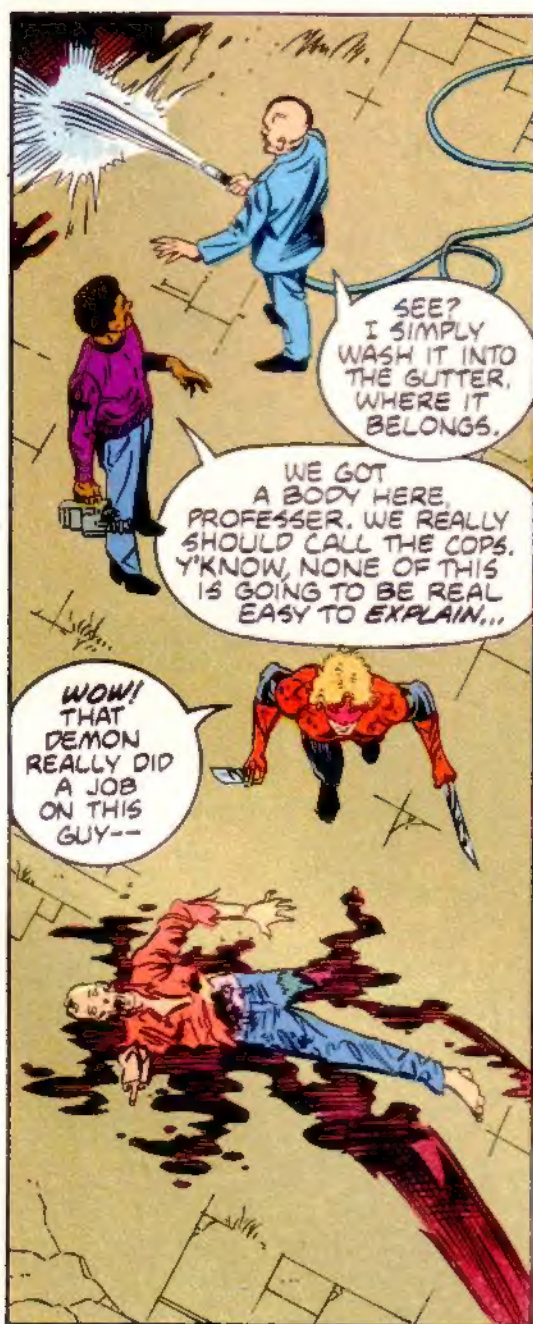


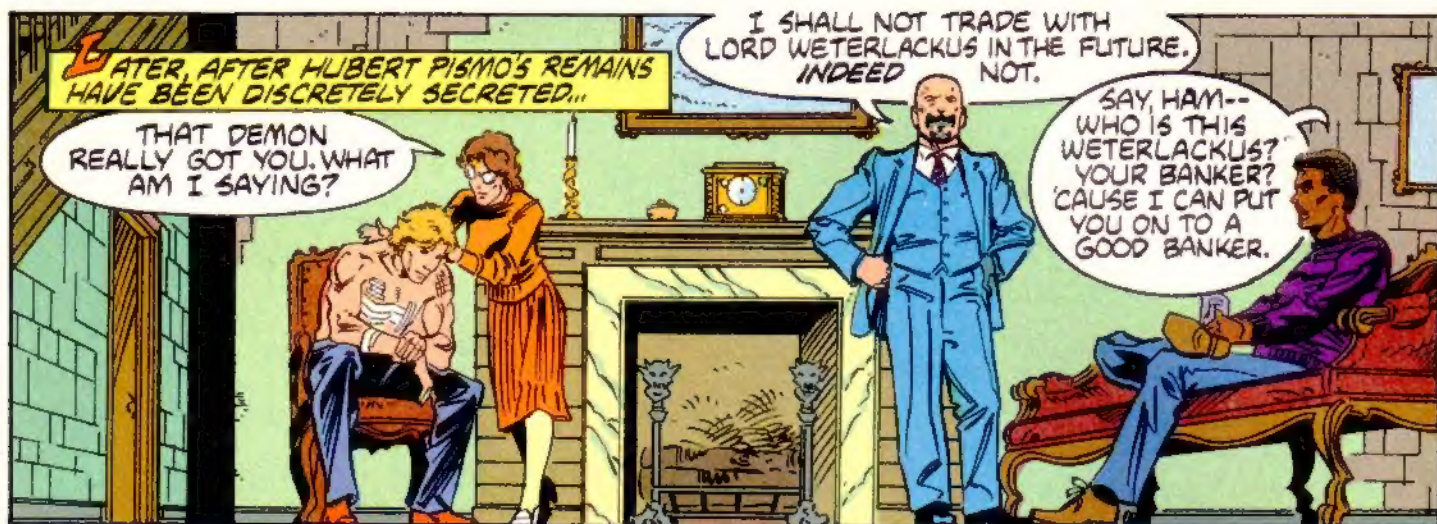
... 'IS MY
GOOD HAND SINISTER,
HEE HEE HEE -- I
KEEP IT AND I'LL BRING
YOU THE OTHER.









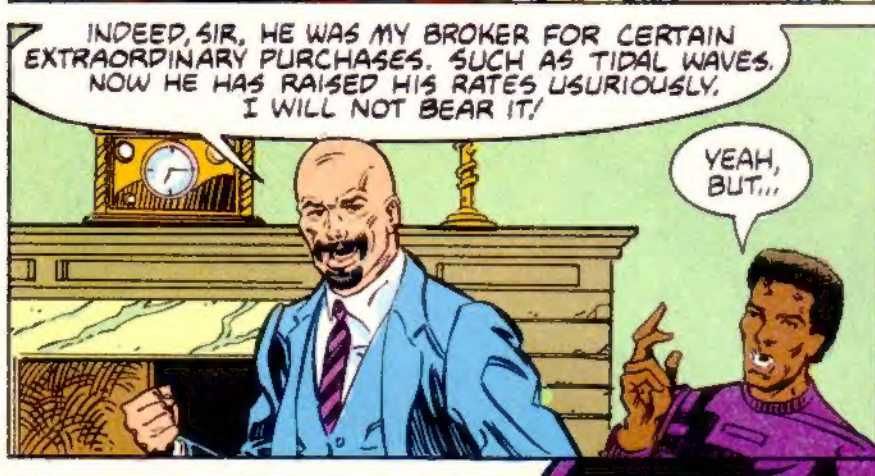


LATER, AFTER HUBERT PISMO'S REMAINS HAVE BEEN DISCRETELY SECURED...

THAT DEMON REALLY GOT YOU. WHAT AM I SAYING?

I SHALL NOT TRADE WITH LORD WETERLACKUS IN THE FUTURE. INDEED NOT.

SAY, HAM-- WHO IS THIS WETERLACKUS? YOUR BANKER? 'CAUSE I CAN PUT YOU ON TO A GOOD BANKER.

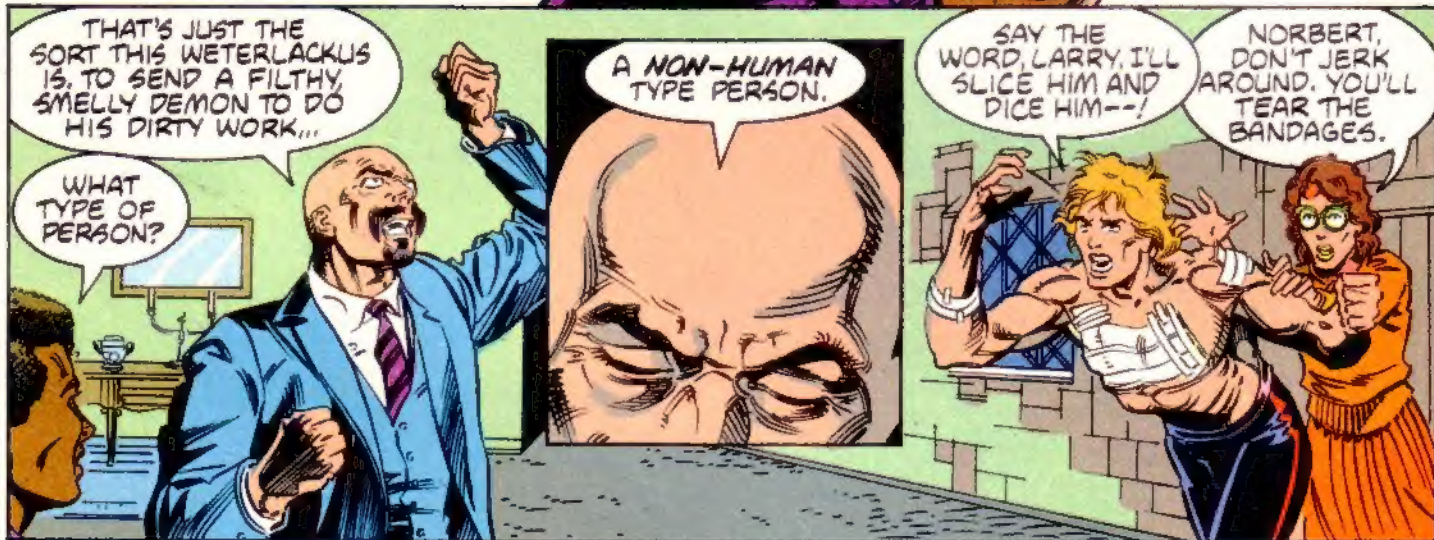


INDEED, SIR, HE WAS MY BROKER FOR CERTAIN EXTRAORDINARY PURCHASES. SUCH AS TIDAL WAVES. NOW HE HAS RAISED HIS RATES USURIOUSLY. I WILL NOT BEAR IT!

YEAH, BUT...



WHO IS HE? 'CAUSE HIS HANDYMAN OUT THERE FEEDIN' THE WEEDS? HE WASN'T HUMAN!



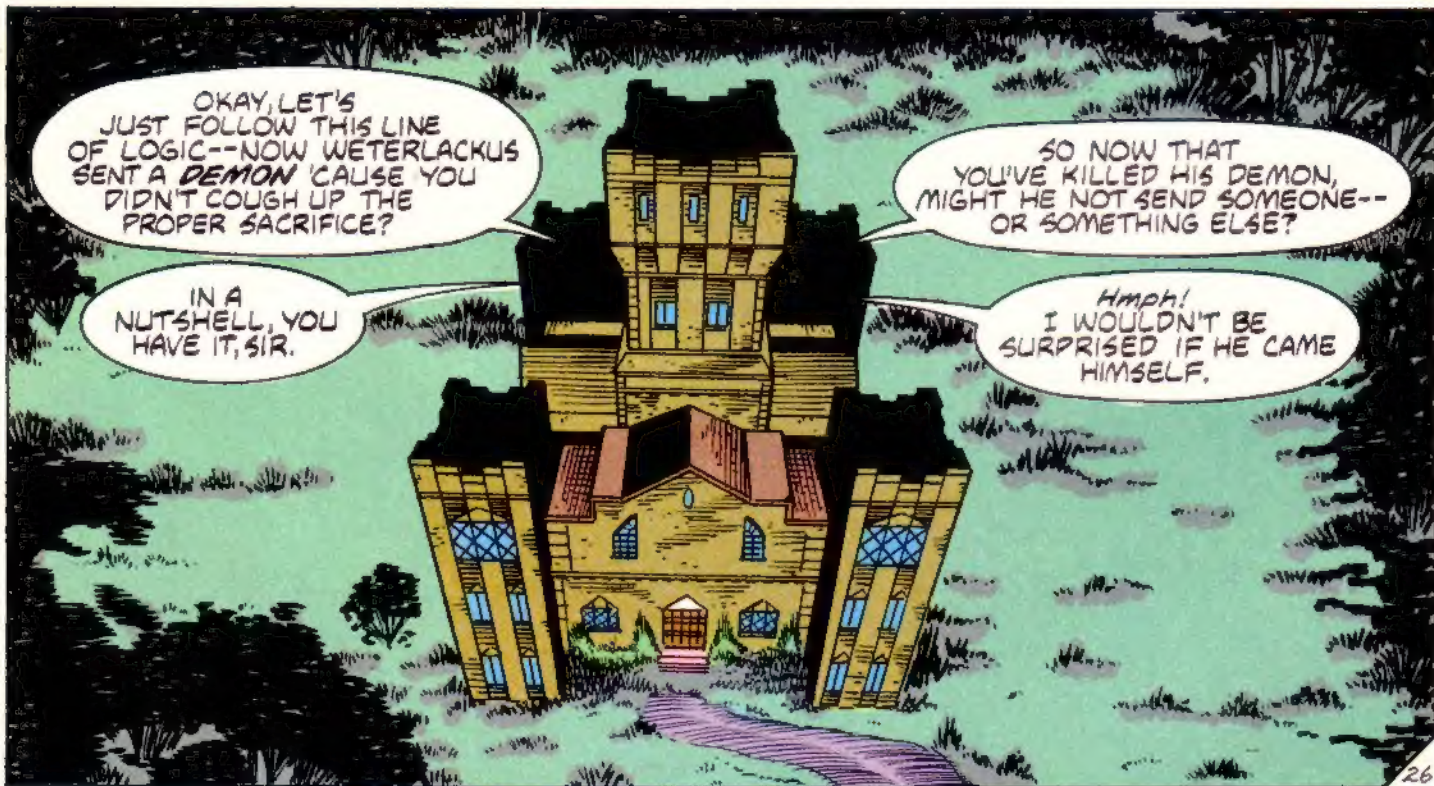
THAT'S JUST THE SORT THIS WETERLACKUS IS. TO SEND A FILTHY, SMELLY DEMON TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK...

WHAT TYPE OF PERSON?

A NON-HUMAN TYPE PERSON.

SAY THE WORD, LARRY. I'LL SLICE HIM AND DICE HIM--!

NORBERT, DON'T JERK AROUND. YOU'LL TEAR THE BANDAGES.



OKAY, LET'S JUST FOLLOW THIS LINE OF LOGIC--NOW WETERLACKUS SENT A DEMON 'CAUSE YOU DIDN'T COUGH UP THE PROPER SACRIFICE?

IN A NUTSHELL, YOU HAVE IT, SIR.

SO NOW THAT YOU'VE KILLED HIS DEMON, MIGHT HE NOT SEND SOMEONE-- OR SOMETHING ELSE?

Hmph! I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE CAME HIMSELF.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, HAM'S ATTORNEY AND THE BADGER'S PUBLIC DEFENDER MET WITH THE MAYOR. THE MAYOR MET WITH THE CHIEF OF POLICE. ALL CHARGES WERE DROPPED-- QUIETLY.



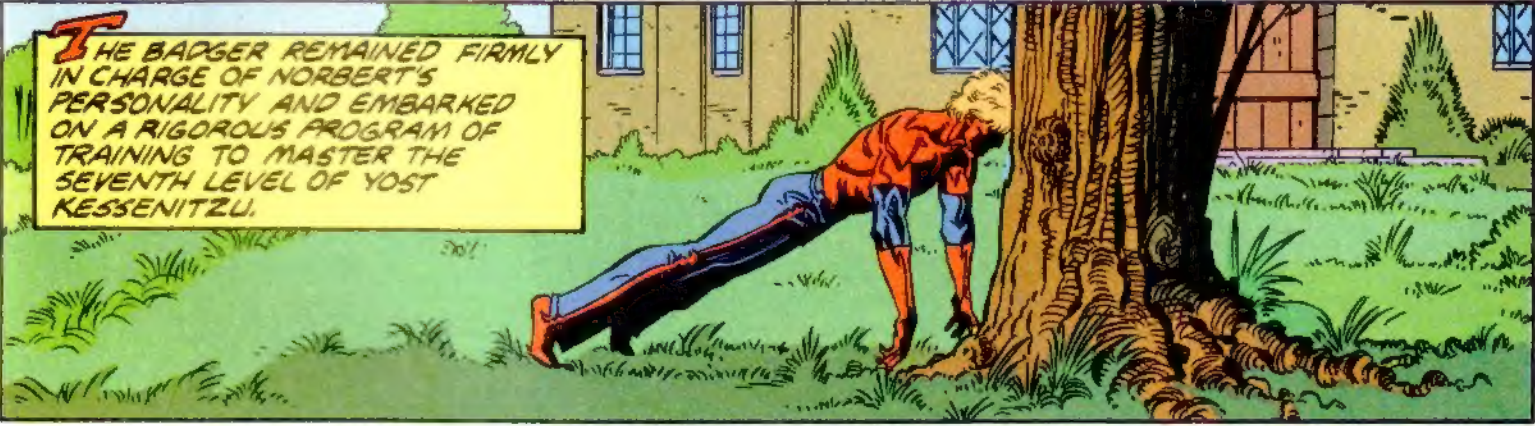
LED BY HAM, WEBCO FOUGHT OFF CON AMAL'S UNFRIENDLY TAKEOVER BID. HAM MADE A KILLING IN THE MARKET AND GAVE DAISY A 14% RAISE.



RILEY CONTINUED TO CONDUCT INVESTMENT SEMINARS FOR BANKERS, FOR HE WAS, IN REALITY, AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS WITH THE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, AND ONLY PALLED AROUND WITH THE BADGER ON WEEKENDS.



THE BADGER REMAINED FIRMLY IN CHARGE OF NORBERT'S PERSONALITY AND EMBARKED ON A RIGOROUS PROGRAM OF TRAINING TO MASTER THE SEVENTH LEVEL OF YOST KESSENITZU.



ALTHOUGH THE BADGER CONTINUED TO DRAW A SALARY, HE DID NOT GET A RAISE.

